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NATION



Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper will sign legislation that sets limits on ammunition magazines and expands background checks for firearms.

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Syria's opposition coalition elected a little-known U.S.-educated IT manager and Islamic activist to head an interim government.

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FOCUS



Relieved your kids aren't posting embarrassing messages and goofy self-portraits on Facebook?

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'ICE could piggyback on US Marshal Service deal'

■ **Inos says 120-day notice to end deal with ICE a formality**

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

With the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Immigration and Customs Enforcement not using the prison complex in Susupe to house all its detainees except for one at the moment, the CNMI government said yesterday it is open to accommodate inmates from Guam that has considered the idea more than once before. Local officials also said the Susupe prison complex provides adequate medical care to its occupants including the services of nurses, doctors, and a psychiatrist, but ICE cited unresolved deficiencies in medical care for detainees at the facility.

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Associate Justice Inos vows to uphold the laws



By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

CNMI Supreme Court Associate Justice Perry Borja Inos officially took office yesterday with a pledge to uphold the laws of the Commonwealth and to maintain and increase public acceptance and understanding of the court's legitimacy.

"For me, my retention by an overwhelming majority of voters was a good indicator of the people's faith in the judiciary. This is crucial to the ongoing legitimacy of the judiciary," said Inos in his address during his investiture ceremony at the CNMI Supreme Court.

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HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

A Department of Corrections official walks the stairs yesterday afternoon to a portion of the areas reserved for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement detainees but remained almost empty most of the time since DOC inked an agreement with ICE on the use of the \$20.9-million prison complex in Susupe. DOC issued a 120-day notice of intent to terminate that agreement, while ICE says there are unresolved deficiencies in medical care for detainees at the facility.

Nekaifes pleads not guilty

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Jermaine Joseph Wabol Nekaifes yesterday entered a not guilty plea to the charges for his role in the alleged conspiracy to shield former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham from being served a penal summons.

At the arraignment, Nekaifes, through attorney Timothy Bellas, waived reading of the information and advisement of his constitutional rights.

Nekaifes pleaded not guilty to the information charging him with conspiracy to commit theft of services, conspiracy to commit obstructing justice: interference with service of process, obstructing justice: interference with service or pro-

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Local

Initiative to abolish municipal councils mulled

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

House Floor Leader Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan), along with at least seven other representatives, pre-filed on Monday a legislative initiative that would amend the CNMI Constitution to abolish the municipal councils on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota to help eliminate redundancy of functions, cut costs, and reduce the size of government. If and when the House and Senate pass the initiative, it will be placed before voters to decide on either at the next regular general election or the next special election, whichever comes earlier.

Demapan, in an interview yesterday, said the goal is to help reduce redundancy, improve

efficiency, and cut government costs by more than \$450,000 annually.

"There have been numerous recommendations from the public how to make the government more efficient, reduce redundancy, and reduce its size, and this is among the proposals we hope will be acceptable. Many of my colleagues have signed as co-sponsors of this bill," Demapan told *Saipan Tribune*.

House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan), one of the co-sponsors of the initiative, said last night he supports abolishing municipal councils because there are already legislative delegations "so it is obso-



Demapan

lete and redundant."

"We should also consider merging the Indigenous Affairs [Office] and the Carolinian Affairs [Office]," he added.

House Legislative Initiative 18-2 seeks to abolish municipal councils and establish a chartered municipal form of government for Saipan.

The principal functions of municipal councils are to confirm the appointments of resident department heads by the mayor and to review the mayors' proposed budget.

Although the responsibilities of the municipal councils are limited, the municipal councils have 14 employees and a com-

bined budget of \$452,900, the initiative says.

Demapan, in a phone interview, reiterated that municipal councils perform no functions which cannot be provided by mayors.

"In order to conserve resources and streamline government,

PSS concerned with NMC show-cause status

» COE bares 10 students sitting idle on Rota waiting for community college reopening

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The State Board of Education and the Public School System expressed their concern on the situation of the Northern Marianas College which may potentially close down if the institution fails to rectify all the remaining deficiencies cited in its accreditation.

Education board chair Herman T. Guerrero and Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D., personally appealed to lawmakers in a recent summit for continued assistance to the only community college on island so NMC could finally get out of the severe sanction of show cause in its accreditation.

"We have to do something about higher education because if 56 percent of our students are entering college after high school, then where they will go next if it is not available on island?" said Sablan, citing the result of exit survey conducted among graduating students this year.

NMC has until Oct. 15, 2013 to submit reports to the accreditation commission explaining why its accreditation should not be revoked. A closure report

the Municipal Councils should be eliminated. Article IV, section 8 [of the NMI Constitution] is proposed to be amended to make Saipan a chartered municipal form of government, identical to the form of municipal government on Rota and Tinian and Aguijan," the seven-page initiative says.

Previous initiatives to shrink the size of government, which many describe as "bloated," never made it on the ballot including the ones that propose to reduce the number of lawmakers.

lege not only on Saipan, but on Tinian and Rota as well.

It was some two years ago when NMC suspended its instructional sites on Tinian and Rota as recommended by the accreditation commission due to concerns about "equal" services rendered to students in both sites.

Among the PSS initiatives beyond 2012 is the P16 Integrated System which will cover students from preschool to college. At present, PSS is handling K-12 program on island while NMC handles the post secondary education program. For pre-school program such as child care, this program is being handled by the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs.

BOE and PSS are proposing to the Inos administration to transfer back the childcare program to the school system because it is an important component of both its P-3 Initiative and P16 Integrated System Initiative.

Under the PSS' P16 Integrated System Initiative, education officials believe that with a unified system enforce, seamless transition to college will be achieved. If this will happen, the proposed one educational system will become an autonomous agency and will be run by a board elected by the people.

In order to realize this change, there's a need for constitutional amendment.

MMAC team captains meeting tomorrow

The 2013 Marianas March Against Cancer committee will be holding a team captains meeting tomorrow, March 21, beginning 5:30pm at the DFS Galleria conference room in Garapan (second floor). All 2013 teams are encouraged to attend this important meeting.

"The MMAC committee looks forward to seeing all team captains on Thursday. If you were unable to attend the previous meeting, please be sure to attend this team meeting where vital information will be discussed," said 2013 MMAC team recruitment committee chair Catherine Attao-Toves.

"We'd like to remind all teams that there are two important deadlines coming up: early bird registration and T-shirt orders. If your team pays their registration fee by March 21 you will receive a \$100 discount off the registration price. Teams who pay their fee get to reserve their tent spots with MMAC logistics committee chair Vinyacia

Seman. We encourage teams to take advantage of this special offer," said Attao-Toves.

"Also, March 21 is the deadline to submit your T-shirt order form and payment. If teams have questions on T-shirts please contact MMAC T-shirt committee chair Janine Nogis who can be reached via email at janine.nogis@gmail.com," said Attao-Toves.

The 2013 MMAC will be held from 6pm to 6am on April 26-27 at Hopwood Junior High School in Chalan Piao. The 2013 MMAC is brought to you by title sponsors Delta Air Lines, DFS Saipan, Ltd., IT&E, Joeten Charitable Foundation, Marianas Variety, Sorensen Media Group, and Take Care/FHP.

Special thanks to major sponsors Brabu Pharmacy, Docomo Pacific, Hopwood Junior High School, McDonald's of Saipan, PHI Pharmacy, and Traders Insurance Co. For more information call 989-1987, email emanuel.borja@gmail.com or visit www.ccamarianas.org. (MMAC)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

LOTUS BRAND RAFFLE WINNER

The first monthly drawing of Lotus Brand Rice was recently held at LJ's Store in Garapan. Loreto M. Presto of Kagman II won a Hamilton Beach 20-cup rice cooker. Monthly draw and food sampling in various stores is being held every first week of the month. Photo above shows Presto posing with employees and customers of LJ's Store and Genpro International, Inc., distributor of Lotus Brand Rice.



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TSL Plaza – up to 6:00pm
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Suspended lawyer arrested anew for domestic violence

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Antonio M. Atalig, a suspended lawyer who was convicted last January for domestic violence, was arrested again yesterday for allegedly assaulting his wife and their minor daughter.

Atalig, 56, was taken to Superior Court yesterday afternoon on charges of assault and battery, child abuse, and disturbing the peace.

Associate Judge David Wiseman increased to \$25,000 cash from the \$10,000 cash bail that the court had imposed in issuing an arrest warrant.

"The court considers you a danger to your wife and children," Wiseman said.

Atalig replied that he is denying it.

"I thought a defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty?" Atalig said.

Wiseman stated that he made such finding (danger) by reviewing his criminal record.

The judge said he does not have any word to describe the outrage upon seeing the suspended lawyer again in court on same domestic violence matter.

Wiseman even noted that Atalig is still on probation.

Atalig told the court that on Monday they had a hearing and the court issued a temporary restraining order. He said he would normally come to his house in Papago to clean the property.

As to the allegations that he appeared drunk when the incident happened, Atalig said he has not consumed any alcoholic beverages for a long time.

Detective Flora Danica B. Aguon stated in her report that, on Thursday at 6:08pm Atalig's wife called the Department of Public Safety to seek police's assistance against Atalig.

Aguon said police officers responded to the residence in Papago where



Atalig

they arrested Atalig.

Aguon said investigation showed that Atalig, who appeared drunk, came to the residence, shouting and kicking the sliding door.

To avoid breaking the sliding door, the wife opened it and asked Atalig to leave the house.

The wife stated that Atalig does not live with them since the domestic incident in July 2012.

Atalig, however, allegedly forced himself inside and

chased his wife around the dining table.

The minor daughter pushed Atalig to prevent him from touching her mother.

Atalig then allegedly grabbed the daughter by the shoulders, arms, and hair and started strangling and pushing her around.

The wife tried to keep Atalig's hands away from the daughter's neck.

When Atalig lost grip of his daughter's hair, the daughter and her minor sister along with their mother ran into the living room where they waited for police to arrive.

On Saturday, Atalig was released from jail while police conducted further investigation.

Aguon said when the wife and her children learned that Atalig was released from jail, they were afraid to go home.

Police then requested the court to issue an arrest warrant against Atalig. The court

issued the arrest warrant on Monday.

In January 2013, Atalig pleaded guilty to two counts of assault (domestic violence).

Wiseman subsequently slapped the defendant with a 40-day jail term that he already served in prison. Atalig was placed on probation for three years and prohibited from possessing or consuming any alcoholic beverages during that period.

According to the plea agreement, on July 29, 2012 on Saipan, Atalig grabbed rocks and a PVC pipe and offered or attempted to strike them at his two minor children.

In May 2012, Wiseman suspended Atalig and attorney Reynaldo Yana from practicing law in the CNMI for refusing to return \$1.1 million in attorneys' fees that the two obtained from the Angel Malite estate.

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Chamber opposes listing corals under ESA



Sablan

Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Alex Sablan expressed the Chamber's opposition to the listing of 66 reef-building coral species under the U.S. Endangered Species act, or ESA.

In a letter to Lance Smith, regulatory branch chief of the Protected Resources Division of the National Marine Fisheries Service's Pacific Islands Regional Office in Honolulu, Sablan listed a number of concerns over the proposal that would place an ESA listing of species under the Act and have negative impacts on businesses and livelihoods in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

"Our island economy depends on tourism. Our Chamber understands the

acidification, ocean warming and coral bleaching), which are best addressed through mechanisms other than the Endangered Species Act."

The Chamber says an ESA listing for the 66 species of coral will have a pronounced economic impact on a number of in-water projects that are necessary for the islands' economy, such as the maintenance of our shipping channels and maintenance and improvement of the islands' harbors.

There are also concerns about the science itself used to support ESA listing of the corals. Sablan also feels there are very few, in fact one, individuals that have the knowledge needed to identify precisely the species of the corals, and

there are no labs for out-of-water laboratory analysis of the specimens that would necessitate damage and removal of the coral.

Implementation of an ESA-required species identification program would be impractical, prohibitively expensive and would have a high likelihood of species misidentification.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce, founded in 1959 and incorporated in 1976, is the largest private business organization in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Chamber works to promote and protect business, economic and civic interests, and the general health and welfare of our islands. (SCC)

Businessman Yoon arrested for sexual abuse of a girl

Businessman Ho Jin Yoon was arrested on Monday for allegedly sexually abusing a 6-year-old girl.

Yoon was served with an arrest warrant on charges that include sexual abuse of a minor, child abuse, and assault and battery.

Yoon, 58, was released yesterday from jail after posting \$50,000 cash bail. The Super-

ior Court ordered him to appear in court on March 20 at 9am.

Detective Therese S. Kintoki stated in her report that a police officer received on Monday a call from the Division of Youth Services about a sexual abuse of a minor case victim at the Commonwealth Health Center.

Kintoki said investigation showed that Yoon allegedly sexually abused the girl us-

ing his finger at a residence in Garapan.

When the girl cried, Yoon allegedly stopped and promised he would not do it again.

The girl apparently confessed to her mother, who confronted her after she discharged blood and experiencing pain while urinating.

A doctor later examined the girl.

Public schools facing utility budget problem

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—The Guam public school system is facing an estimated \$5 million increase in power and water costs.

According to the *Pacific Daily News*, Department of Education Superintendent Jon Fernandez says the school system faces some se-

rious belt-tightening or will have to get more money.

Fernandez says the department budgeted \$10.5 million for power, but now estimates new rates will push the school system \$4.8 million over-budget.

He says the department is considering a range of possible measures to save money,

including using less air conditioning, turning off lights and changing out light bulbs.

Fernandez says as a last resort, money could be requested from the Guam Department of Education's 15 percent reserve fund. He says the legislature also could be asked for money in a supplemental budget.

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Registration Deadline: Monday, March 25, 2013

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"Where learning is a way of life"

Microbes thrive at ocean's deepest spot

SAIPAN, Northern Marianas (Reuters)—Microbes are thriving in surprising numbers at the deepest spot in the oceans, the 11,000-metre (36,000 ft) Mariana Trench in the Pacific, despite crushing pressures in sunless waters, scientists said.

Dead plants and fish were falling as food for microscopic bugs even to the little-known hadal depths, parts of the seabed deeper than 6,000 metres and named after Hades, the god of the underworld in Greek mythology, they said.

The presence of life in the trench also shows how the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide, vital for the growth of tiny marine plants at the ocean surface, can eventually get buried in the

depths in a natural process that slows climate change.

A Danish-led team of scientists, using a robot to take samples, found double the amount of bacteria and other microbes munching away on debris at the bottom of the Mariana Trench in the western Pacific than at a nearby site 6,000 metres deep.

"It's surprising there was so much bacterial activity," said Ronnie Glud, of the University of Southern Denmark and lead author of the study in Monday's edition of the journal *Nature Geoscience*.

"Normally life gets scarcer the deeper you go. But when you go very deep, more things start happening again," he

told Reuters of the report that also involved research institutes in Scotland, Greenland, Germany and Japan.

The finding backed up a theory that dead plants and fish falling onto the steep sides of the Mariana Trench often slide to the bottom to form a "hot spot" for microbes. Earthquakes also trigger mudslides that carry debris down.

The Mariana Trench is five times longer than the Grand Canyon and could easily swallow the world's highest mountain Mount Everest, which stands 8,848 meters tall.

Life has been detected at the bottom before, but its extent is little known. The scientists' video cameras also spotted a few shrimp-like crustaceans at the

bottom of the trench.

"It's most likely that more carbon is deposited" in the hadal depths than previously believed, Glud said.

"We have a small exotic piece of the puzzle which has never been studied before," Glud said of the way that the oceans recycle or bury carbon.

Only about 2 per cent of the world's oceans are deeper than 6,000 meters.

Until now, scientists had suspected that life in most of the ocean depths, where waters are just above freezing, was severely limited by a lack of food.

Only about one or two per cent of living material in the upper waters is expected to sink even to the average ocean floor depth of 3,700 meters, the

study said. Most food gets scavenged and carried up towards the surface before it falls so deep.

And water pressure at the bottom of the trench is about 16,000 lbs per square inch (1,125 kg per sq cm), about the same as being stepped on by an elephant wearing high-heeled shoes.

The scientists were also studying the genetic makeup of the microbes, living in temperatures just above freezing.

The ability to survive crushing depths may mean they have enzymes that could be used by industries that use high pressures, ranging from fermentation to oil and gas.

The bottom of the Mariana Trench was first reached by scientists in a submarine in 1960. Film director James Cameron also descended in 2012 and reported few signs of life.

Probation officer allegedly points gun at common-law wife, then at his head

A CNMI probation officer was arrested yesterday for alleged domestic violence, including pointing a gun at his common-law wife.

Probation Officer 1 John Peter Dueñas Del Rosario was taken to Superior Court yesterday on charges of assault with a dangerous weapon, assault, and disturbing the peace.

Associate Judge David Wiseman reduced to \$2,000 cash the \$10,000 cash bail that the court initially imposed in issuing the arrest warrant.

Citing the defendant's lack of criminal history and other factors, Wiseman allowed the 33-year-old Del Rosario to post \$200 or 10 percent of \$2,000.

Detective Peter A. Aldan stated in his report that, on March 2, 2013, a witness called 911 on behalf of Del Rosario's common-law wife to report a domestic violence.

Aldan said investigation showed that during an argument over a car issue, Del Rosario picked up a bin full of hangers and threw it in their room.

Del Rosario allegedly went right up to her face and shouted that he can break her mouth.

Aldan said according to the victim, in November 2012, during their heated argument, Del Rosario allegedly pulled out his issued 9mm pistol out of the closet, pointed it at her, and threatened

to kill her.

The probation officer then allegedly turned the gun on himself, pointed it at his head, and stated he was not scared to die.

Del Rosario then allegedly pulled the trigger, but the pistol did not go off.

The wife grabbed Del Rosario's right hand and begged him to put down the gun.

Using her other hand, the wife called Del Rosario's mother and told her about the incident.

The parents came over, but this incident was not reported to the police, according to detective Aldan. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

nuanced and complex.

Inos ended his speech by thanking his wife Debra and their children "for their patience in pursuing my new responsibility."

In his welcome remarks, Chief Justice Alejandro C. Castro said the appointment and confirmation of Inos now completes the appellate branch as mandated by the CNMI Constitution.

"Justice Inos, welcome aboard our judiciary canoe. It is an honor and a privilege to be working with you and Justice Manglona," Castro said.

In his remarks, Gov. Eloy S. Inos said the investiture ceremony for associate justice Inos is another milestone in the government as the leadership continues to do business at hand.

Governor Inos expressed confidence that associate justice Inos and his colleagues will continue to uphold the rule of law and decide equitably and impartially.

Governor Inos administered the oath of office for justice Inos.

In his closing remarks, Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert Naraja

said justice Inos' seat on the Supreme Court makes him a part of the leadership that will continue to shape the future of the judiciary.

"Justice Inos exemplified admirable leadership qualities in the Superior Court and will continue to do so in the Supreme Court," Naraja said.

All current judges were present at the investiture rites, along with retired associate justice Jesus C. Borja, former judges Edward Manibusan and Timothy H. Bellas, and retired associate judge Herbert D. Soll. U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona and Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider also attended the ceremony.

Among the guests were from the United Courts of Guam—Chief Justice F. Philip Carbullido, associate justice Robert J. Torres, presiding judge Alberto C. Lamorena III, and associate judge Arthur Barcenas.

The courtroom was packed with Justice Inos' family members, lawmakers, lawyers, friends, Cabinet members, and other community members.

sonal driver and bodyguard of former governor Benigno R. Fitial.

OPA chief investigator Juan M. Santos stated in his affidavit filed in court that Nekaifes was aware of the existence of the summons to be issued to Buckingham as evidenced by statement or testimony of Commonwealth Ports Authority police chief Jordon Kosam at Fitial's impeachment proceedings.

Santos said Kosam received a call via cellphone from Nekaifes requesting his assistance to provide an escort to Buckingham, due, in part, to the fact that persons may attempt to serve Buckingham with the summons.

Furthermore, Santos said, Nekaifes

coordinated the escort and security services to be provided for Buckingham and/or his wife.

Santos said Nekaifes and Department of Public Safety deputy commissioner Ambrosio Ogumoro made arrangements with Kosam and Fitial to assist Buckingham to evade and avoid the service of the summons.

Aside from Nekaifes, for the alleged conspiracy OPA had also filed criminal charges against Fitial, Ogumoro, Kosam, and CPA's Capt. Juan Rebuenog. Except Fitial, all defendants already appeared in Superior Court. The former governor, who is off-island, has been issued with penal summons.

ICE

From Page 1

Gov. Eloy S. Inos separately said yesterday that the 120-day notice of intent to terminate an existing agreement between DOC and ICE on the use of the Susupe prison complex is a "matter for formality" given that ICE is sending its detainees from the CNMI to Guam and Hawaii anyway.

Inos said now that "the issue has come to light," he would be discussing the matter further with Corrections Commissioner Ray Mafnas.

Mafnas said ICE could still piggyback on DOC's separate the Inter-governmental Service Agreement or IGSA with the U.S. Marshal Service on the use of the Susupe prison.

He said DOC and the U.S. Marshal Service have been in partnership for a long time, and because of an agreement between the two agencies, the Susupe prison continues to accommodate federal inmates through USMS.

Mafnas sent on Feb. 14 a 120-day written notice of intent to terminate the ICE-DOC IGSA. The effective date of the contract termination is June 17, 2013.

As of yesterday afternoon, they have yet to receive any communication from ICE regarding the 120-day written notice.

Mafnas also said the department is seriously considering housing Guam inmates at the Susupe facility "and we have discussed that in the past."

"We certainly wanted to work with Guam. However, I believe the restriction or the obstacle is finances. Someone has to pay for the cost of moving anyone from any institution to ours," he said.

He said he needs to run this again with the governor and Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider.

"I'm confident that Governor Inos would listen and see the merits but we have to be cautious because of the limited financial resources for here in the commonwealth and for Guam," he said. "I want to help as much as I could. I don't mind helping our neighbors. It's just a matter of ensuring that we do not commit the Commonwealth into a tremendous financial burden."

Somehow someone is going to pay. For the food alone we're estimating more than three quarters of a million dollars...in 12-month period."

Corrections Division director Gregory Castro said "there's no formal communication from ICE explaining the reason" for sending detainees to Guam and Hawaii instead of placing them at

the Susupe prison complex pursuant to the ICE-DOC agreement.

Castro, who has been with DOC for 15 years, said since the inception of the DOC-ICE agreement, "it was promised" that 350 beds will be reserved for ICE detainees. The number was later lowered to 100, then 50, then 25.

However, the maximum number of detainees that ICE brought to the Susupe prison was 22 and that was only for a day. Since the start of 2013, ICE brought only up to two detainees. At the moment, there's only one ICE detainee at the facility.

"So if you will, we were holding our part of the bargain. You know we made the place ready including offices for them because they're supposed to have administrative personnel and enforcement personnel here," Castro said.

He said it's not cost-effective to reserve units for ICE detainees especially because they have to be lit and air-conditioned all the time even if there's only one ICE detainee. Moreover, ICE only pays for every detainee brought.

Castro and Mafnas said the \$89 per ICE detainee per day has proven to be much lower than the actual cost of providing adequate housing to these detainees.

Mafnas, Castro, Capt. Georgia Cabrera, Capt. David Deleon Guerrero, and other DOC officers showed reporters yesterday afternoon the housing units reserved for ICE detainees as part of a tour of the \$20.9-million facility that also has its own clinic with a nurse on-duty and a library.

Inos, in an interview yesterday, said in his understanding, the 120-day written notice of intent of termination of the DOC-ICE agreement "is really a matter of formality."

"My understanding is that they are working on their own facility so I understand there's no need for continued occupancy of the correctional facility," the governor said.

He also said that in the last report he saw, there has been an increase in the number of CNMI inmates that are needing the prison's pods or housing units as well.

The number of inmates at the Susupe prison complex has increased by 32 percent.

Lori K. Haley, spokeswoman for DHS' ICE, had said that a recent assessment of the CNMI prison complex by the ICE Health Services Corps revealed deficiencies in the medical care available to ICE detainees.

"Since the issues remain unresolved, ICE is currently using detention facilities in Guam and Hawaii to house its detainees," she said.

INOS

From Page 1

During the election last November, majority of voters retained Inos as an associate judge in the Superior Court.

Inos vowed that in his new role as an associate justice, he will continue working with his colleagues on the judiciary's various community outreach efforts—Law Week, Judges and Justices in the Classroom, We the People, Mock Trial, and the Summer Pre-Law program.

Inos said during his years as an associate judge, he strived to uphold the legitimacy and integrity of the judicial branch through applying the law fairly for all who appear in his court.

"Since learning of my nomination to the Supreme Court, I have looked forward to continuing my judicial career at the appellate level," he said.

Inos said serving as a justice of the High Court brings with it new challenges because when cases come up on appeal, arguments often become more

NEKAIFES

From Page 1

cess, conspiracy to commit obstructing justice; interference with a law enforcement officer or witness, obstructing justice; interference with a law enforcement officer or witness, and six counts of misconduct in public office.

Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja set a status conference for April 9.

Office of the Public Auditor special prosecutor George Hasselback appeared at the hearing for the CNMI government.

Nekaifes, 39, used to serve as per-

'Sustainability plan requires huge funding to enforce'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CEO Juan N. Babauta disclosed that the sustainability plan turned in by the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps requires a huge funding allocation which the cash-strapped organization may have trouble getting.

With this admission, Babauta hinted that only critical items will be given utmost priority at this time so as to avoid decertification from the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

The 50-plus page sustainability report submitted by the Commissioned Corps Hospital Assistance Team to Gov. Eloy

S. Inos and the Legislature incorporates a detailed and comprehensive plan of action to sustain the progress of the public hospital.

The plan specifically details the various positions needed to fill in the existing units and new sections of the hospital, timetable that these needs to be done, procurement of many equipment and tools, necessary trainings and continuing education sessions for staff, among others. The plan has over 200 recommendations.

Babauta cannot immediately say how much funding is required to accomplish these plans, citing the projected figure will be incorporated in the final CHCC budget.

In a presentation to the corpo-

ration staff, CFO/COO Esther Muna disclosed that the corporation's budget for the current fiscal year is \$32 million. For FY 2014 budget, preparation is ongoing where new positions will be included.

The CEO said that among the "priority positions" in the corporation is the hiring of a permanent lab manager, CMMS

compliance officer, CFO, pharmacists, revenue cycle administrator, among others.

But he admitted that funds needed to fill these key positions is a big question at this time. Just for the lab manager, the CEO said CHCC hopes to

get grants from the Office of Insular Affairs and the U.S. Public Health Service—agencies that can immediately help to keep the post filled for the hospital.

Babauta, despite reporting a big progress in CHCC's collections, admitted that it still owes its vendors significant amounts. For instance, CHCC owes JC Marketing

over \$2 million.

For other local vendors, CHCC is behind by two to three months in payments.

According to Babauta, CMMS is also on top of the commission corps' sustainability plan. However, there are issues he admitted were "disagreeable" between them.



Babauta

Up to 99-year land lease initiative mulled

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Inos administration and the House leadership are open to the idea of extending the current 55-year land leases to up to 99 years or revisiting Article 12, the land alienation provision of the NMI Constitution, for voters' consideration. This comes at a time when many of the islands' major hotels have only a few years left on their land leases and are therefore holding back renovations and reinvestments.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos said yesterday he supports revisiting Article 12 "and let the people make that decision" to make changes

to it or repeal in its entirety, but he is also supporting an initiative to extend the 55-year land lease limit.

"I don't know if total repeal of Article 12 is the answer. Maybe increasing the term of the leasehold could be an answer here. That's why it has to be really discussed through the various public forum[s]. Not everyone would agree but it's important that we take the views of all sides here," he told reporters after a Cabinet meeting.

Article 12 restricts ownership of land only to people of Northern Marianas descent.

He said the 55-year land lease could be extended to 75 or 99.

Early Spring break for public school students

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Students at public schools will start their Spring break early as classes in many schools are out beginning Friday to give way for teachers and staff to undergo professional development and training.

Secondary schools representative Jonas Barcina disclosed yesterday that the public schools belonging to central and southern clusters have decided to conduct their professional development sessions on Friday. Schools included in these clusters are Marianas High School, Garapan Elementary School, San Vicente Elementary School, Oleai Elementary School, Hopwood Junior High, William S. Reyes Elementary School, Dandan Elementary School, Koblerville Elementary School, San Antonio Elementary School, and Saipan Southern High School.

Barcina, also Hopwood Junior High principal, said clustered schools will tackle on Friday teacher classroom instructions for their continued effectiveness and will touch on schools' accreditation issues in preparation for the upcoming team visit in October.

PSS, starting in June last year, has aligned its accreditation with the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools from Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

The transfer transitions from school level to a district level accreditation process which includes the entire system and its board of education.

Barcina said the schools' support employees, meantime, are scheduled to undergo training from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. These sessions will focus on the national workplace safety regulations, including preventing on-the-job accidents and injuries in the workplace.

Also this Friday, Kagman High School principal Alfred Ada announced that the Northeast cluster schools will have no classes beginning Friday for the same reason. These included Kagman Elementary School, Chacha Oceanview Jr. High, Kagman High School, Tanapag Elementary School, and Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School.

PSS' Spring break for all students are scheduled from March 25 through March 29. They are expected to comeback in the classrooms, along with their teachers and staff, on April 1.

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

MIP-SAI PAN CORPORATION

NOTICE is hereby given that MIP-SAI PAN CORPORATION, a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands corporation (the "Corporation"), was dissolved effective as of December 31, 2012. All persons with claims against the Corporation are to send them in writing to the Corporation at the following address: PMB 699 P.O. Box 10000, Saipan, MP 96950. The written claim must include the following information:

- (1) Claimant's full legal name and contact information (address, email, telephone, fax, etc.);
- (2) Summary description and amount of the claim; and
- (3) Date the claim arose.

Pursuant to 4 CMC § 4607, the claim of each of the following claimants is barred unless the claimant commences a proceeding to enforce the claim against the Corporation within five (5) years after the publication date of this newspaper notice:

1. A claimant who did not receive written notice under 4 CMC § 4606;
2. A claimant whose claim was timely sent to the Corporation but not acted on; and
3. A claimant whose claim is contingent or based on an event occurring after the effective date of dissolution.

MIP-Sai Pan Corporation

'Board's participation needed'

Board member Anthony Raho disclosed Friday that the CHCC board, although an advisory board, is mandated by law to be involved in the development of strategic planning for the hospital. But it was never accorded the chance by the management to do so.

He asked Babauta what was the recommendation of the commission corps on this issue, which the CEO said was never touched on by the commission team.

"The commission corps is not taking a position on this issue on one way or another because it is a matter, for them, that needed the decision of the legislature. What they do recommend is that the lead-

ership works closely with the board—more than we have been—on issues of a broader scope," said Babauta.

He cited as examples of these issues the board's vision on the Tinian and Rota clinics, the future of medical referral program, the possible expansion of the hemodialysis unit, and the issue about universal health insurance.

Prior to the development of sustainability plan for the hospital, CHCC was also assessed by HealthTech which indicated numerous changes and recommendations that according to the corporation officials also require significant amount of funding to carry out.

CHCC is still in emergency state due to its cash flow problems that gravely impact its delivery of healthcare services.

Florendo accepted to National Society of Scholars

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Local student Glen Paul Florendo has recently been selected for membership in the prestigious National Society of High School Scholars for demonstrating excellence in his studies.

Florendo, a former student of Grace Christian Academy from kindergarten to 11th grade, is now studying in San Diego, California. He is the son of Freddie and Belle Florendo.

The National Society of High School Scholars recognizes top scholars and invites only those students who have achieved superior academic excellence.

The society's founder and chairman, Claes Nobel, an-



Florendo

onstrated to achieve this exceptional level of academic excellence. Glen is now a member of a unique community of scholars—a community that represents our very best hope for the future," said Nobel.

According to the society's president, James Lewis, the vision of the organization is to build a dynamic international organization that connects members with meaningful content, resources, and opportunities. It aims to help students build on their academic successes and enhance the skills and desires to have a positive impact on the global community.

The society was formed in 2002 and currently has more than 530,000 members in over 160 countries.

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

M'S SAIPAN CORPORATION

NOTICE is hereby given that M'S SAIPAN CORPORATION, a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands corporation (the "Corporation"), was dissolved effective as of February 28, 2013. All persons with claims against the Corporation are to send them in writing to the Corporation at the following address: PMB 700 P.O. Box 10000, Saipan, MP 96950. The written claim must include the following information:

- (1) Claimant's full legal name and contact information (address, email, telephone, fax, etc.);
- (2) Summary description and amount of the claim; and
- (3) Date the claim arose.

Pursuant to 4 CMC § 4607, the claim of each of the following claimants is barred unless the claimant commences a proceeding to enforce the claim against the Corporation within five (5) years after the publication date of this newspaper notice:

1. A claimant who did not receive written notice under 4 CMC § 4606;
2. A claimant whose claim was timely sent to the Corporation but not acted on; and
3. A claimant whose claim is contingent or based on an event occurring after the effective date of dissolution.

M's Saipan Corporation

Covenant Party to mark islands' 37 years of being part of US

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A political party named after one of the most important agreements the islands have ever inked will be observing Covenant Day on March 24, the 37th year when President Gerald Ford signed a joint congressional resolution approving a mutually negotiated "Covenant to Establish a Com-

monwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States."

Oscar M. Babauta, chairman of the Covenant Party's campaign committee, said yesterday that the party makes it a point to celebrate Covenant Day, an observed CNMI holiday.

A year after President Ford signed the Covenant on March 24, 1976, the CNMI government adopted its own Constitu-

tution, and the constitutional government took office in January 1978.

The "Covenant" was fully implemented on Nov. 3, 1986, pursuant to Presidential Proclamation 5564, which conferred U.S. citizenship on legally qualified CNMI residents.

This Sunday's 37th Covenant Day celebration will be held at Minatchom Attdao in

Susupe from 11am to 3pm.

"We are inviting everyone to celebrate this important holiday with us, regardless of your political party. This is a celebration for everyone," Babauta told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

The Covenant defines the unique relationship between the Northern Marianas and the United States, recognizing U.S. sovereignty but limiting,

in some respects, applicability of federal law. The Commonwealth accordingly enjoys a greater degree of autonomy than most U.S. territories.

The celebration will also coincide with the Covenant Party's annual election of officers as required by the party's by-laws. Babauta said the Covenant Party is open to anyone wishing to join the party.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos is cur-

rently the Covenant Party's titular head.

The 12-year-old Covenant Party was founded by former governor Benigno R. Fitial in 2001. In January 2011, Fitial went back to his old party, the Republican Party, and is now its chairman again. Since Fitial's resignation as governor on Feb. 20, the GOP has yet to announce whether there's any change in its leadership.

CUC reactivates Marpi waterpipe for farmers

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has agreed to have its water standpipe in Marpi back online without a meter following a clamor from farmers and ranchers who conduct agricultural activities in the northern part of the island.

This solution will have to be temporary, warned CUC chief financial officer Charles Warren, as the agency is mandated by a federal court order to bill all its water customers based on volume used.

Warren met with over a dozen agricultural producers involved mainly in farming, piggery, and grazing activities in the Marpi area last Friday, several days after CUC cut down the water coming from the said standpipe.

"In the interest of public safety, we'll get that pipe back up," said Warren. Immediately after the meeting, he asked CUC Water Division manager Paul Raczkowski to work on getting the standpipe running again, allowing affected farmers and ranchers to continue with their agricultural activities.

Warren said at the meeting

that the existing standpipe was shut down due to its unsafe location and to give CUC control on its accessibility. He disclosed that they are looking at moving the standpipe near Power Plant I in Lower Base.

But group leader Ramon B. Camacho, president of the Saipan Agricultural Fair Association, argued that the farmers were taken aback by CUC's move to disconnect the standpipe, claiming that they were "never informed."

Camacho noted that over 20 agricultural producers were affected by the incident and proposed that both the group and CUC come up with a "workable solution" to address the matter.

Several solutions were put on the table, including having one meter for all standpipe users. Warren cautioned the group with this proposal, though, explaining that this would mean higher cost for the farmers since the price per gallon is directly proportional to the volume of water.

He added that this solution would not have any mechanism for monitoring and might be unjust for farmers who consume less water than others.

While having one meter per



Chief financial officer Charles Warren of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. convenes with farmers and ranchers conducting agricultural activities in Marpi on Friday. CUC agreed to make its water standpipe back online temporarily to have the affected agricultural producers carry on with their livelihood.

farmer would make more sense, Warren said CUC does not have any meter in stock. This solution would require the agency to place an order for the needed meters, which would mean prepayment system, wherein farmers will be given coupons or cards for a specified number of gallons of water that they paid in advance.

Rep. Anthony Benavente (IR-Saipan), chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee who was also present at the meeting, underlined the hardships facing the farmers who operate in Marpi

having to start a procurement process and additional months for waiting period.

Another solution, Warren said, is an automated filling

station that will follow a

should CUC continue to keep the standpipe offline.

Farmer Benigno Sablan agreed, emphasizing that water is a "very necessary" element in agricultural activities, particularly during the dry season which is "approaching very quickly."

Warren said he understands, coming from a family that used to run cattle farms. "We're doing

everything we can to make this as workable as we possibly can," he told the farmers.

However, the CFO explained that the need to have the water coming out of the standpipe metered is driven by the stipulated order from the federal court resulting from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency successful lawsuit versus the CNMI and CUC.

In an interview, Warren said the decision to re-activate the standpipe is made given how "critical" the situation is of the farmers.

"I think that the livelihood and the safety of their animals is going to take precedence right now," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Warren expressed concern, however, that the move is against the stipulated order.

"I'm very concerned but I think I can make an argument. The argument I'm going to present to the court is that we have some folks whose livelihoods are on the line and we have to come up with a solution for them in the interim," he said.

For Warren, the "ultimate solution" in this situation is the automated filling station, which he said would have to go out for a bid if it will cost the agency more than \$25,000.

"If we were to go with a solution, I knew that that's what we're going to do. It would take a minimum of three months probably before we get that going. In the whole scheme of things, it's not that long," he added.

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**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB13-DEQ-084**

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: APRIL 02, 2013 • TIME: 10:30 A.M.

"SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF PLANTING MATERIALS FOR THE TALAKHAYA PROJECT IN ROTA FOR THE DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

/S/ FRANK M. RABAULIMA
DIRECTOR OF DEQ

/S/ HERMAN S. SABL
DIRECTOR, P&S

LAW OFFICES OF S. JOSHUA BERGER
D'Torres Building, Garapan
P.O. Box 504340
Saipan, MP 96950
Phone (670) 235-8060 Fax 235-8070

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS RETIREMENT FUND Plaintiff, CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0120

vs. SUMMONS

VICENTE K. BASA aka **VINCENT K. BASA**, Defendant.

TO: **VICENTE K. BASA** aka **VINCENT K. BASA**

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file with the Superior Court any Answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is given to you herewith, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication of this Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your Answer to the Law Offices of S. Joshua Berger, Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is Second Floor, D'Torres Building, Garapan, P. O. Box 504340, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your Answer.

Your Answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

By order of the above Court:

DATED, this 15th day of January, 2013

/s/ Clerk of Court 3rd Publication

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB13-DLNR/DFW-091**

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: APRIL 02, 2013 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"DEPLOYMENT OF FIVE (5) FISH AGGREGATING DEVICES (FAD) SYSTEM IN CNMI WATERS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES, DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK AND SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ARNOLD I. PALACIOS
SECRETARY OF DLNR

/S/ HERMAN S. SABL
DIRECTOR, P&S

Mafnas named NMHC deputy director

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The new deputy director for the Northern Marianas Housing Corp., Jeannie P. Mafnas, will also be tasked the duties of a planner and grant writer.



Mafnas

The NMHC board of directors selected Mafnas out of three interviewed candidates to become the agency's first deputy director.

"I have been selected for the position; however, the routing of documents to make my position official is still on-going," Mafnas said.

A native of Tinian, Mafnas graduated from Chaminade University in Honolulu, Hawaii

with a bachelor's degree in accounting and a master's degree in business accounting. She also served as an intern at the Commonwealth Development Authority during college.

NMHC is a division of CDA. Mafnas has been NMHC's planner and grant writer for about six years now, handling all Community and Planning Development programs funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development such as the Community Development Block Grant, CDBG-Recovery or CDBG-R, Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program, Emergency Solutions Grants, Neighbor-

hood Stabilization Program, and the Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program.

She said NMHC has provided her with numerous training opportunities that helped her grow as a planner and grant writer, familiarizing her with HUD programs and establishing great working relationships with HUD representatives.

According to Mafnas, she was honored to take on the significant task of deputy director.

"When the position is made official, I look forward to working with the Corporate Director and staff in further improving the agency and continue towards NMHC's goals, mission and vision in providing safe, decent, and sanitary housing to low-income households," Mafnas told *Saipan Tribune*.

Salinas, Asuncion top seniors ground golf tourney



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Clients at the Aging Center pose for a group photo during their Ground Golf Tournament at the Garapan Fishing Base last Wednesday.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

San Roque resident Lito Asuncion and Saipan Seniors Advisory Council president Maria T. Salinas outshone their opponents to win the Man'amko Ground Golf Tournament held at the Aging Center last Wednesday.

Asuncion, who also won this year's pool tournament, was on fire after beating five congregates who are considered "experienced veterans" in the game under the male division, namely Pedro Dela Cruz, Jose I. Torres, Leonides Marinas, Kimo Jordan, and Orlando Gondayo.

With his wife Jacoba by his side, Asuncion became the first male client to score a hole in one as well, said Aging coordinator Walter Manglona.

"His swing was masterful and his composure was of that of a veteran golfer. He may be a rookie but he didn't show it. He was very impressive," Manglona said about Asuncion.

Meanwhile, Salinas edged

out her fellow competitors, particularly her closest rival Mery-alen Conrad, by a huge margin. Manglona described her as "amazing" during the game.

"She played better than most of the men. For the past few weeks, Maria Salinas has shown that she means business when she steps out on that field," he added.

According to Manglona, the man'amko continue to show their competitive spirit in playing the various games that they conduct at the center.

He said the island's elderly are looking forward to the month of May when they celebrate "Older Americans Month."

Hopefully, Manglona said, this year's celebration would allow the Saipan seniors to play against their counterparts from Timian and Rota for an inter-island ground golf game, which is one of the biggest events they are eyeing for the month-long celebration.

"We are still planning the events for May so things are not yet finalized," he said.

The theme for the celebration is "Unleash the Power of Age" and Manglona said the man'amko at the center are getting ready to do just that.

"Our main goal is to continue to promote goodwill amongst our clients and encourage them to stay active and healthy," added Manglona.

Power interruption in Kagman 3 today

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the general public that there will be a scheduled power interruption today, March 20, from 9am to 1pm on laterals in the Feeder 4 circuit specifically in Kagman 3.

The purpose of the interruption is to de-energize the primary lines to allow the CUC line crew to safely make modifications to the electrical system in preparation for re-energizing of the Kagman Loop Project scheduled for Saturday, March 23.

Water services may be affected in the area during the power interruption; however, all services should be restored after the power is re-energized.

Areas to be affected: Feeder 4 (part of 3rd partial):

Kagman 3 (Gaogao Dr, Gaogao Ct., Gagu Lp., Nonnak Av., Kagman Market, Hollywood Video Shop, Kevin's Video Shop, and Ling-Lin store), and CUC Water Wells (KG-10, KG-11, KG-12, KG-13, & KG-14)

Because of the scale of the work that will be performed, CUC is asking motorists to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the affected areas. CUC apologizes for any inconvenience this power interruption may have on the community and will continue to work diligently to minimize future interruptions. (CUC)

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Restaurant General Manager (1)

Classification: Full-Time, Exempt, 50 hours per week

Department: Operations

Reports To: Area General Manager (AGM)

Summary of Responsibilities

Prioritizes, directs and coordinates the activities of the restaurant to continually strengthen its brand position and maximize its sales and profitability.

Essential Accountabilities

- People:
 - Achieves management staffing and development goals to plan
 - Has active succession plan in place for all positions
 - Improves employee morale through monitoring and showing urgency in caring for employees
 - Improves staff performance through frequent personal and team coaching
 - Reduces incidences and claims by making safety everyone's top priority
 - Ensures compliance with all applicable laws
- Financials:
 - Achieves sales and profit targets to plan
 - Corrects daily financial deficiencies with urgency
 - Drives year-over-year growth in sales and profit
- Operations:
 - Delivers/improves delivery of QSC to franchise operational standards
 - Raises the bar in operational execution

Assets:

- Corrects all asset deficiencies with urgency
- Eliminates any potential for liability with urgency
- Availability
 - Open availability.
 - Minimum 5 day, 50 hour work week.
 - Vehicle required.

Other Functions

Performs other duties as assigned.

Required Skills

- Analytical: Able to analyze reports and correct deficient areas efficiently.
- Problem Solving: Able to implement TOSIDPAR problem solving techniques to achieve desired results.
- Organization & Planning: Able to organize priorities and develop/ execute plans achieving desired results.
- Coaching: Able to develop the skills of subordinates to perform at a higher level
- Team Building: Able to stabilize staffing and build team bench.

Education/Experience

High school diploma and previous management experience required.

Physical and/or Medical Requirements

Must obtain a Tuberculosis Clearance Certificate. Requires standing and walking for the entire workday.

Working Conditions

Minimal hazards. General restaurant working conditions.

Assistant Restaurant General Manager (1)

Classification: Full-Time, Non-Exempt, 40-45 hours per week

Department: Operations

Reports To: Restaurant General Manager (RGM)

Summary of Responsibilities

The Assistant Restaurant General Manager reports directly to the Restaurant General Manager. The ARGm assists the RGM in the achievement of the people, financial and operational goals of the restaurant.

Essential Accountabilities

- People:
 - Assists RGM in achieving restaurant's staffing and development goals
 - Assists RGM in monitoring/ improving employee morale
 - Personally coaches staff
 - Ensures safety is everyone's top priority
 - Ensures compliance with all applicable laws
- Financial
 - Assists RGM in achieving sales and profits to plan.
 - Displays urgency to correct daily financial control deficiencies
 - Strives to drive year-over-year growth in sales and profits
- Operations
 - Delivers/improves delivery of QSC to franchise operational standards
 - Raises the bar in operational execution
- Assets:
 - Ensures facilities are maintained to franchise standard on a daily basis
 - Displays awareness of asset deficiencies and urgency to correct them
 - Displays awareness and urgency to eliminate any potential for liability
- Availability
 - Open availability.
 - Minimum 5 day, 40-45 hour work week.
 - Vehicle required.

Other Functions

Performs other duties as assigned.

Education/Experience

High school diploma and previous management experience required.

Physical and/or Medical Requirements

Must obtain a Tuberculosis Clearance Certificate. Requires standing and walking for the entire workday.

Working Conditions

Minimal hazards. General restaurant working conditions.

Shift Manager (2)

Classification: Full Time, Non-Exempt, 32-40 hours per week

Department: Operations

Reports To: Assistant Restaurant General Manager (ARGM)

Summary of Responsibilities

The Shift Manager reports directly to the Restaurant General Manager. The SM assists the RGM in the achievement of the restaurant's people, operational and financial goals.

Essential Accountabilities

- People:
 - Assists RGM in achieving restaurant's staffing and development goals
 - Assists RGM in monitoring/ improving employee morale
 - Personally coaches staff
 - Ensures safety is everyone's top priority
 - Ensures compliance to all applicable laws
- Financial
 - Assists RGM in achieving sales and profits to plan
 - Displays urgency in correcting daily financial control deficiencies
 - Operations

Other Duties

Performs other duties as assigned.

Employer's Rights

This job description does not list all the duties of the job. You may be asked by your supervisor or managers to perform other duties. You will be evaluated in part based upon your performance of the tasks listed in this job description. The employer has the right to revise this job description at any time. The job description is not a contract for employment, and either you or the employer may terminate employment at any time, for any reason.

All interested applicants may get application at Pizza Hut Restaurant in Gualo Rai • Closing Date: March 22, 2013

- Reads order on video or printer as they appear. Calls out and coordinates specials/missing items to ensure quick service. Tracks preparation times on all orders (TTO), checks weight and appearance and passes items into oven.
- Periodically monitors need of food and materials supplies, takes action as necessary.
- Communicates clearly and effectively to food production personnel, receives information and feedback from them on their needs, and takes action based on observation and information received.
- Cleans and sanitizes workstations on an ongoing basis during meal preparation periods and at the end of the meal period.
- Monitors work of kitchen staff in the completion of their close-down duties and responsibilities.

WAIT HELP

- Essential Functions
- Greets the guests as they enter the dining area.
- Clearly communicate to customers all specials and promotions.
- Take guests' food and beverage orders and give orders to kitchen staff.
- Attends to the needs of the customers.
- Clears table when guests leave.
- Wipes tables with cleaning solution and a clean cloth.
- Performs secondary duties such as phone order taking, product preparation and restaurant maintenance.
- Keeps dining area clean and organized at all times.
- Relays relevant comments received from customers directly to supervisor.

RECEIVING & STOCKING

- Essential Functions
- Responsible for the receipt and storage of all food, supplies and materials received in the restaurant using proper EXPERT, FIFO and Pizza Hut procedures.
- Receives all food, supplies, and materials.
- Checks all incoming items for count, quality and specification.
- Ensures that items are received and stored at the proper temperatures.
- Maintains the completion and compliance of all delivery and inventory records as defined by proper Pizza Hut procedures.
- Keeps dining area clean and organized at all times.
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- Keeps dining area clean

Variety is latest title sponsor for MMAC



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Marianas Variety operations manager Salam C. Younis, fifth left, hands a ceremonial check to 2013 Marianas March Against Cancer Committee overall chair Manny Borja as other committee members look on in a brief ceremony at the publishing company's Garapan office yesterday.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The 2013 Marianas March Against Cancer Committee has another title sponsor in *Marianas Variety* which pledged to donate \$4,000 worth of in-kind contribution to the cause.

MMAC committee members met yesterday with operations manager Salam C. Younis and sales director Jeanette L. Sarabia to make the donation official.

"We always pledge our support to MMAC. They can count on us for help," Younis said.

Manny Borja, MMAC overall committee chair, welcomed anew *Marianas Variety*'s support to the largest and signature

fundraising event of the Commonwealth Cancer Association, a nonprofit group dedicated to promoting cancer awareness and prevention, providing patient support services, and serving as liaison and advocate for cancer issues in the Northern Marianas.

Borja said that over the years, the company has donated printing services for MMAC's promotional materials such as raffle tickets and print advertisements. Additionally, it has printed annual reports of the CCA.

"MMAC values our partnership with *Marianas Variety* so we're very glad to have them on board again this year. Their donation is going to go a long way even beyond the event," Borja

told *Saipan Tribune*.

According to Borja, preparations for the upcoming event is doing well as the committee continues to receive not just sponsors but participating teams as well.

These teams that are under different categories will compete for several awards during the 12-hour MMAC event which begins at 6am on April 26 at the Hopwood Jr. High School Field in Chalan Piao.

"Things are looking good for us and we're happy about the support we're getting from the community," said Borja.

He said interested sponsors and teams can still come in and register to take part in the upcoming event. For the teams, Borja said they can attend the weekly meeting, which is hosted by DFS Galleria every Thursday at 5:30pm for March. Next month, the meeting will move to the CCA office along Middle Road in Gualo Rai.

"Cancer affects us all," said Borja. "It's up to all of us to do our best to work as a community and fight this disease."

For information about team recruitment, contact Catherine

Attao Toves at 285-1828 or attaoc@yahoo.com; for sponsorships, Reina Camacho at 989-7346 or email reinacamacho@gmail.com; for luminaries, contact 287-9324 or email jenypysambile@gmail.com or mariakrizia@gmail.com; for survivors, contact Nola Hix at 989-6652 or email nola.hix@gmail.com; chair Borja at 989-1987 or emanuel.borja@gmail.com or vice chair Rachel Roque at 989-1247 or remroque@gmail.com.

Former CCA manager

Borja said he and the entire MMAC committee and CCA family express their sympathy to the family of former CCA assistant program manager Naomi Deleon Guerrero Benjamin who passed away early Saturday morning due to a car accident.

He said Benjamin, 21, was an "ideal" supporter of the fight against cancer along with her family, Team Bodig, which has given tremendous contributions to the cause over the years.

"We're very sad to see that she's departed from us. From the entire MMAC Committee, we offer our condolences to her family," said Borja.

Climate Change Working Group meeting tomorrow

The CNMI Climate Change Working Group will be holding a quarterly meeting and workshop tomorrow, March 21, from 9am to 11:30am.

The meeting will be held at the Napu Room of the Pacific Islands Club Saipan. Refreshments and lunch will be provided.

This will be an exciting, interactive meeting in which we will be mapping Saipan's vulnerabilities to climate change impacts. This is a great opportunity for you to contribute your knowledge of the villages, schools, beaches, and various other resources of Saipan to an important assessment.

The meeting will bring together all of the previous work of the CCWG and climate change trainings from the past six months, and the outcome will be an in-depth map that tells the story of Saipan's exposure and sensitivity to climate impacts.

Please feel free to invite other individuals or groups that may have expert knowledge related to Saipan's natural or socioeconomic resources and infrastructure.

To stay up to date on all CCWG meetings and activities, visit the CCWG website at www.ClimateCNMI.net, or contact Robbie Greene at RobertGreene.CRM@gmail.com. (PR)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

March 20, 2000

CUC legal counsel quits

Assistant Attorney General Bill Ohle has reportedly resigned as legal counsel of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, apparently a victim of the power struggle within the board following the ouster of former Chair Rosario M. Elameto. He handed his resignation letter to CUC Executive Director Timothy P. Villagomez immediately after the election of Jesus T. Guerrero as chair last Thursday during a board meeting. When sought over the weekend for comment, Mr. Ohle neither confirmed nor denied the report, saying only that he would respond to questions this week. According to sources, Mr. Villagomez accepted his resignation on the day he submitted the letter. The top utility official could not be reached for comment.

Lang eyes comeback in 2001 election

Eyeing another shot at the highest post in the Commonwealth, former Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio disclosed last Friday he would launch his bid for the gubernatorial election next year under the Reform Party. At the same time, he criticized the present administration for using him as a scapegoat for most of the problems dogging the CNMI, saying it is time for a change in order to improve the island's economy. But Mr. Tenorio said he has yet to pick a running mate for the 2001 elections, whom he added he wants to come from the Democrats—the party he deserted last year to form the new political party.

March 20, 2002

'Bombing to go on'

The U.S. Navy has indicated that, even if the court has already ruled in favor of the Center for Biological Diversity on the matter of the Farallon de Mendenilla bombing, it would wait for a court injunction before it halts bombing practices on the island. At the same time, CBD counsel Paul Achitoff said there is no negotiations going on between the CBD and the U.S. Navy as to the cessation of bombing exercises on Farallon de Mendenilla, following the court's ruling on the case. Achitoff said that, to his knowledge, the U.S. Navy has not appealed the court's adverse decision, in connection with the legality of the military exercises. U.S. District Judge Emmett G. Sullivan had ruled last week that the military bombings in the Farallon de Mendenilla violates the 1918 Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The CBD had sued the U.S. Navy and Defense Department to prevent the bombing exercises on the island.

Manglona: Map out strategy in FDM issue

Senate President Paul A. Manglona said the best way to handle the recent court ruling that U.S. military bombings on the Farallon de Mendenilla violates a bird treaty is for the CNMI to map out a single approach that would balance the need to protect the environment and the economic survival of the local economy. At the same time, Manglona stressed that, although the CNMI is not a party to the lawsuit filed by the Center for Biological Diversity against the U.S. military, the Commonwealth still has to be concerned over the court's adverse ruling against the U.S. military as it would directly affect revenue-generating efforts of the CNMI. "We need to talk to our counsel, as well as the Governor, his legal counsel and the Office of the Attorney General. We have to come up together with one approach on how to go about this issue. I think that the best approach is to get our legal minds together and come up with a response," said the Senate President.

March 20, 2004

Audit section at DoF eyed

Acting Finance Secretary Fermin Atalig is embarking on a plan to establish an audit compliance section within the Department of Finance. To initiate the process, Atalig has asked the advice of the Office of the Public Auditor as to the requirements needed to create this office. He said one of the department's immediate tasks is to establish such a section in order to monitor all outstanding audit recommendations by OPA and other auditing firms. The Cabinet official noted that the department has never had this section in the past. He said too many tasks have kept the agency busy, relegating the creation of the audit compliance section at the bottom of its priority.

CRIME OF THE WEEK

Burglary of Russian, Japanese ballet dancers

The NMI Crime Stoppers is seeking the public's help for information on a robbery incident that occurred in Koblerville's Turnkey housing.

Last March 16 at about 11:24pm, police patrol officer Norbert Mettao was dispatched to a reported burglary and theft complaint within the Turnkey housing in Koblerville.

It was learned through the preliminary investigations of Mettao that the crime scene was at the residence of Dr. Gene Eagle-Oden located on Ahu Drive in Turnkey housing, Koblerville.

It was learned that suspect or suspects entered the residence through a window located at the northern portion and then entered the bedrooms and ransacked the belongings of the victims and stole many valuables.

It was further learned that the occupants—Russian and Japanese ballet dancers—had all left the residence for their scheduled performance at about 5pm and upon their return at about 11pm,

discovered the burglary.

Stolen items include a Samsung white Notebook valued at about \$400, a Nokia cellular phone, a Sony black digital video camera valued at about \$400, an Asus black Notebook, a Samsung Corby orange/black cellular phone valued at about \$200, a black leather purse (unknown brand) valued at about \$100, an Acos pink cellular phone valued at about \$500, and 3,200 Russian rubles (about \$100) 30,000 Japanese yen (about \$400), and \$750 in cash.

Detectives of the Criminal Investigation Bureau are still working on the case and are encouraging anyone who has any information to this crime or may have seen suspicious person(s) or activity between the hours of 5pm to 11pm around the vicinity of the residence last March 16 to call 664-9054 or the Crime Stoppers Tips Line at 234-7272.

Crime Stoppers pays up to a \$1,000 for any information leading to an arrest. (*NMI Crime Stoppers*)

Chamber to revive Corporate Mixers

Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Alex Sablan announced plans to revive and reinvent the past Chamber's after hour social mixers as a way to connect the business community and showcase products and services amongst friends.

The SCC Events Committee chairpersons, Nola Hix of Xerox Corp. and Kevin Mc-

GCA students win lunar calendar art contest

Three Grace Christian Academy students won in the 2013 Chamorro and Refaluwasch Lunar calendar poster contest sponsored by the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. Third graders Miku Kimura and Luis Jerome Pascual won second and fourth place, respectively, while fifth grader Jim Michael Ham won third place under the grades 3-5 category.

The winning entries of the art contest from grades K-12 students held in the CNMI were featured in the 2013 Chamorro and Refaluwasch Lunar Calendar. The theme of the competition was "Climate Change Impacts on the Traditional Places that Sustain Our Cultural and Food Security." This theme encouraged class lessons and discussion on how climate change has or may impact the traditional places and practices that promote sustainable use of natural resources to ensure the island's food security and the well-being of the indigenous culture.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

CIL open house today

The public are cordially invited to the open house for the Center for Living Independently in the CNMI. The open house is set today, March 20, from 9am to 2pm. The center is located in Anatahan Dr. Bldg #1366, Capital Hill.

The center is run by and for people with disabilities and is dedicated to assisting people with disabilities to live independently.

For more information, call CLI executive director Lydia D. Igitol at 322-4303/4304 or email cilmci2005@yahoo.com. (PR)

Palauan Youth Day this Saturday

The Palauan Community Association would like to invite all youth ages 8-18 to for the Annual Youth Day on Saturday, March 23, at the Minachom At-dao from 9am to 5pm for some activities.

This request is coming from a non-profit organization called Palau Community Association with Palau Youth officers and their advisers. Should you have any questions call Felisa Brel at 237-3296 or 788-8115/ email felisa.brel@cnmpss.org, or call Rufino Agoun at NMC or Bernice Ravell at 256-3327. (PR)

Åmot Måkpung Åmku' yan Åmot Tininu available at cultural center

The Inetnon Åmot yan Kut-

Cale of Docomo Pacific Inc., announced the first quarterly mixer for March 22, 2013 at the Kanoa Resort's Barefoot Beach Bar, from 6pm to 8pm. Appetizers will start the evening, and game show entertainment will be provided by Chamber company teams competing against one another for bragging rights and some hopefully embarrassing moments.

SCC companies will compete against each other, two at a time, in the SCC Corporate Feud, fashioned after the popular *Family Feud* game show TV program. Teams will consist of five-member panels, who will field questions from a popular local emcee. The questions and their answers will be provided

by the Northern Marianas College in surveys secretly and confidentially tabulated expressly for the SCC Corporate Feud.

Each quarterly Chamber mixer's Corporate Feud winner will be forwarded to the Ultimate Corporate Feud to be staged in December 2013. Any proceeds

earned will go directly into the SCC College Scholarship Fund used to award, this year, \$12,000 in college scholarships to Saipan resident students.

Call the Chamber at 233-7150, or email to coordinator@saipanchamber.com, to register your team for the March, June, or September Corporate Feud. All three quarterly winners will qualify for the December mix-

er's Ultimate Feud.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce, founded in 1959 and incorporated in 1976, is the largest private business organization in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Chamber works to promote and protect business, economic and civic interests, and the general health and welfare of our islands. (SCC)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Grace Christian Academy 3rd graders Miku Kimura, left, and Luis Jerome Pascual, right, flank 5th grader Jim Michael Ham after the three students won in the 2013 Chamorro and Refaluwasch Lunar calendar poster contest sponsored by the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council

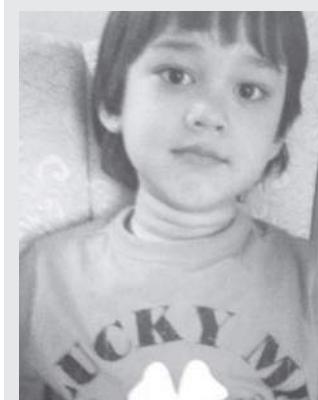
The representatives from the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council came to visit the 3rd graders under

Mrs. Manzano and 5th graders under Mrs. Miriam Dilse to give the awards to the art winners last Friday, March 15, 2013. (GCA)

turan Natibu/Mwiischil Safey me Kkoor Aramasal Faluw is happy to announce that ready to be boiled, packaged Åmot Måkpung Åmku' yan Åmot Tininu is available at the Saipan Chamorro-Carolinian Cultural Center at 1213 Capitol Hill Rd., across from

the Workforce Investment Agency and next to the CNMI Board of Parole Office. A \$10 donation per package is accepted. The office hours are Monday to Friday, from 10am to 5pm. For more information, call 322-0278. Si Yu'us ma'asi'. (PR)

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



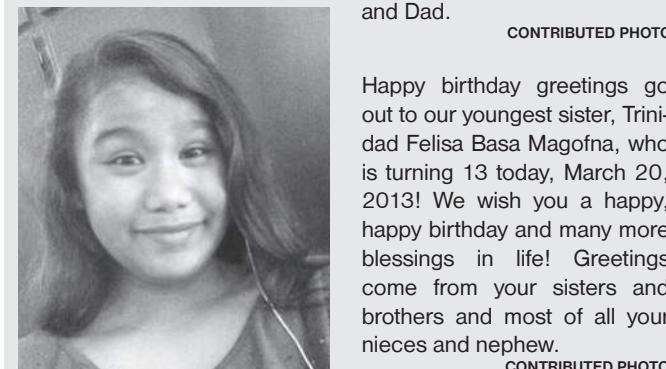
Happy 6th birthday to Gregory! Greetings come from Chaddy, Nini, Sia, and Ton!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy 11th birthday Harry Wayne Sablan Moses III! We wish you all the best on your special day and many more to come. We love you always! Greetings come from Juanerz, Ruby, Nadia, John, and Mom and Dad.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy birthday greetings go out to our youngest sister, Trinidat Felisa Basa Magofna, who is turning 13 today, March 20, 2013! We wish you a happy, happy birthday and many more blessings in life! Greetings come from your sisters and brothers and most of all your nieces and nephews.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Rakuten Travel honors Fiesta Resort

Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan won the Diamond Award for 2013 from Rakuten Travel last March 14. The company, Japan's largest online reservation website, hosts an annual awards ceremony celebrating the achievements of outstanding hotel operators.

The Diamond Award is awarded to the top hotel every year, recognizing high volume of sales as well as overall satisfaction with customer service and facilities.

The awards ceremony was held at the Claret Hall, an upscale banquet hall at the resort.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan resident manager Abner Acosta receives the Rakuten Travel Diamond Award for 2013 from Rakuten Travel president Masashi Okatake. They are accompanied by Fiesta Resort Sales & Marketing director Junichi Mitagawa and Ayano Ueda from Sales in the Japan Office.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY



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BENJAMIN TAISACAN MANGLONA/ROTA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT REMOVAL AND REPAINTING OF RUNWAY 9 MARKINGS PROJECT NO. CPA-RA-001-13

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting for sealed proposals for the "Eradication" of existing runway markings currently used for the operation of the existing 6,000 foot Runway 9/27, and the "Removal and Re-striping" of the existing runway markings on the recently constructed 1,000 foot Runway 9 extension project at the west end of the runway necessary for the conversion of the existing 6,000 foot runway to a new 7,000 foot full length runway of the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona/Rota International Airport.

It is CPA's expectation that this project is accomplished in a professional workmanlike manner in conformity with accepted standard practices and consistent with the project requirements per the plans provided, this scope of work and current Federal and local guidelines, rules and regulations.

The scope of work and plans are available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Proposal for the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona/Rota International Airport Removal and Repainting of Runway 9 Markings". One original and one (1) copy of the proposal must be submitted no later than 4:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME, FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 2013, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport.

The offerer shall submit with their proposal the following:

1. Letter of interest
2. Project Approach (detailing how the work will be accomplished inclusive of layout and one line diagram.)
3. Construction Team
4. Related past project performance (include commendations or certifications if available)
5. Construction Timeline
6. Available resources to accomplish the project
7. Cost proposal (in itemized SOW format)
8. Valid CNMI Business License

This procurement is made in accordance with the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations Section 3.6. Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

1. Total cost for construction	30%
2. Project Approach	20%
3. Experience of the firm on similar or related projects	20%
4. Qualifications of the principal(s) and assigned staff	15%
5. Construction time frame	15%

The Project is being financed solely by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within ninety (90) calendar days from the receipt of proposals. CPA reserves the right to hold the contract award for one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the date of receipt of proposals. Award of a contract is contingent upon allocation of funding.

All responses to this RFP shall take into account any and all taxes, including excise taxes, shipping costs, security badge costs, etc. that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for the project.

It is CPA's expectation that this project is accomplished in a professional workmanlike manner in conformity with accepted standard practices and consistent with the project requirements per the plans provided, the scope of work and current Federal and local guidelines, rules and regulations.

Arrangements can be made with the CPA Rota Ports Manager, Mr. Martin Mendiola at 670-532-9497 for access and inspection to the proposed location. Since site inspections are completely at the contractor's discretion, any and all travel to Rota for inspection purposes prior to submission of the proposal will not be paid for nor reimbursed by CPA and are completely at the contractor's expense.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ EDWARD M. DELEON GUERRERO
Executive Director

Date: March 19, 2013

Opinion

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Jorge Mario Bergoglio brings a common touch to the Vatican

Endearing anecdotes trail the new Pope Francis as naturally as flowing robes did his predecessors. Thursday morning he stopped by his hotel to pick up his luggage and pay his bill before heading to the Vatican to say Mass. He did not take the bus, but that was his preferred means of travel as Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio in Buenos Aires, where he passed up a palace for a small downtown apartment and cooked his own meals.

The choice of this man as pope is a hopeful turn for the Catholic Church and for the communities and nations whose lives it influences. Francis, better than many clergy, understands the challenges real people face. And a Jesuit from Latin America has to energize Catholic communities in the Bay Area. Certainly the faithful at the Jesuits' Santa Clara University are, to put it in non-ecclesiastical terminology, pumped.

For Americans divided on a woman's right to choose an abortion, increasingly supportive of gay marriage and overwhelmingly—even among Catholics—engaging in birth control, Pope Francis will bring no immediate philosophical shift. The conclave would not have chosen a theological renegade.

But on the other matter that has embroiled the Catholic church in social issues here—child sexual abuse by priests—we are hopeful that Francis might perceive where the church went wrong, not just in sheltering abusive priests for years but in dealing with the aftermath. Leadership of the church often has seemed to be on another planet from the people and parishes so deeply wronged.

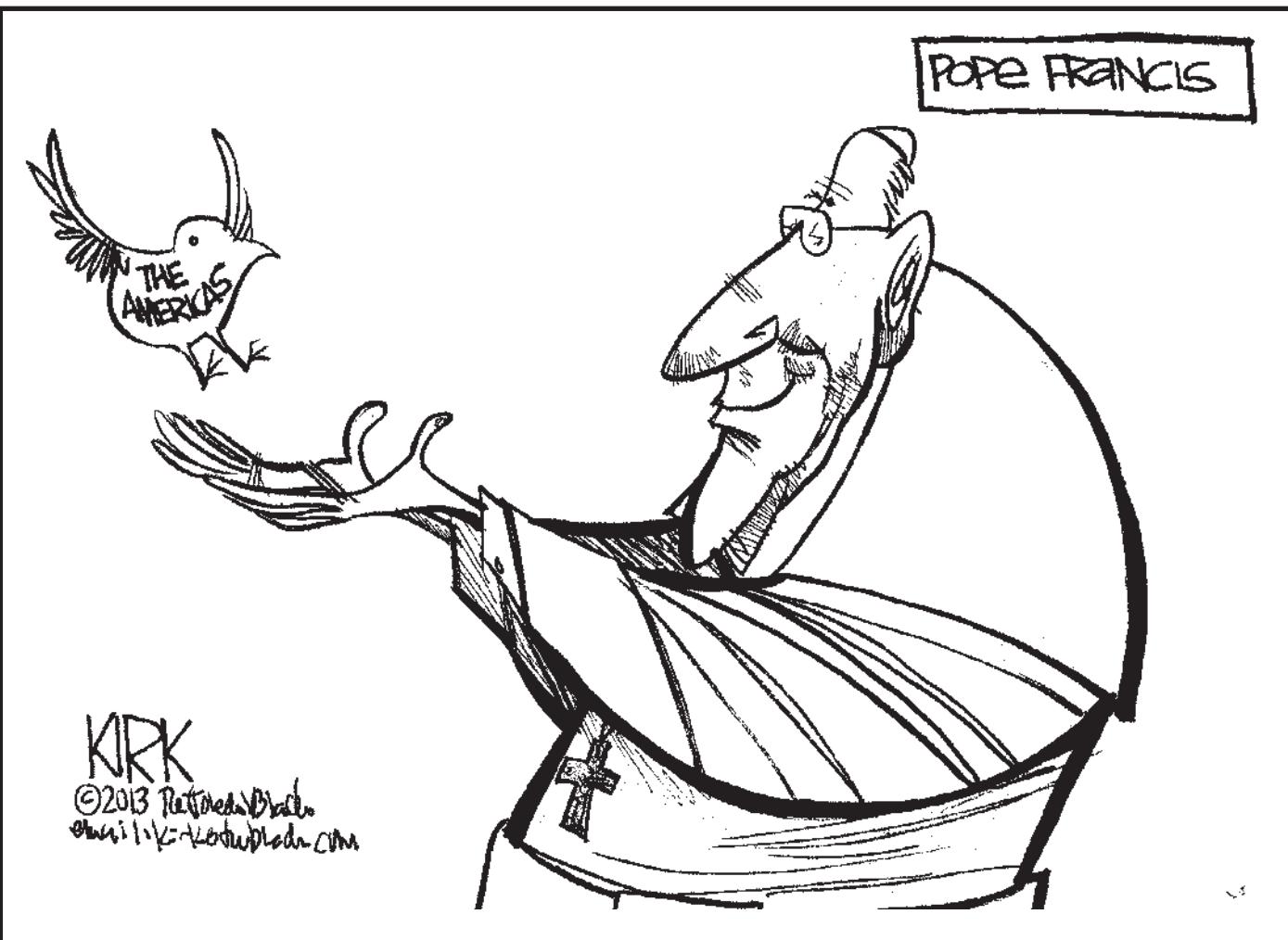
In Argentina, Francis spent time in the slums and preached inclusiveness to the priests under his watch. A conservative on church doctrine, he nevertheless saw pastoral duties as most important. He berated priests who refused to baptize the child of a single mother, for example. He called out hypocrisy.

Like popes before him, he has a history of controversy. His conduct during the years of brutal dictatorship in Argentina has been questioned. Now his personal life will be on world view. How does his humble nature reconcile with his prominence in the church? No obscure choice, he was a finalist in the last papal conclave.

The world will follow his unfolding story because the selection of a pope is not just of consequence to Catholics. Religious organizations work hard to influence public policy and laws. Just last year, Catholic leaders forced changes in medical coverage for contraception under President Barack Obama's health care reform.

There have been times in recent years when the Catholic church as an institution seemed more focused on protecting its own than on listening to the people or reaching out to those who were wronged. We hope that the pope will shift that tone to one of understanding and caring, here and in the rest of the world. And that, as foretold in the Prayer of St. Francis, he will be an instrument of peace.

(c)2013 San Jose Mercury News



'Candle in the wind'

Can the NMI tax its way to wealth? Is there a model government somewhere with sterling achievement using such tool we could emulate in a listless or disastrous economy?

Indeed, the cataclysmic or disastrous economic posture of the NMI economy offers little to cheer about. The hardship is piled into one humongous challenge as we await the \$9 per hour minimum wage offered by President Obama.

As though prohibitive utility cost hasn't forced closure of a lot of businesses, we engage in tax increases as the Holy Grail to spur revenue generation. Apparently, there's the belief that we could tax ourselves to wealth.

But would not this shortsighted measure exact the complete opposite? Isn't it a matter of fiduciary responsibility to retreat so we could review policy issues that are regressive at best, netting deeper economic calamity at worse?

Must we not look around to figure out the beast, specifically, areas throughout the country where jobs creation and investments have skyrocketed over other states in the union? Unless we resolutely probe reinvestment using the old tired ways would be analogous to lighting a candle atop a windswept mountain.

Texas Growth Machine

The Lone Star (Texas) has done better in "wealth and jobs creation" than the rest of the country from 2002 through 2011, according to research prepared by a public consultancy firm.

"During the 2002-09 period, small businesses of fewer than ten employees were the Texas employment engine, adding nearly 800,000 new jobs; of those, about three-quarters were in firms with two to nine employees, as Figure Two indicates. Larger Texas companies—those with 500 or more employees—lost a significant number of jobs over this span, and medium-size firms likewise shrank, trends that also showed up on the national level.

"Statistics show that many of the new Texas jobs paid well. Indeed, Texas did comparatively better than the rest of the United States from 2002 through 2011. For industries paying over 150 percent of the average American wage, Texas could claim 216,000 extra jobs; the rest of the country added 495,000.

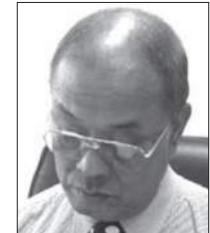
"In other words, the Lone Star State, with 8 percent of the U.S. population, created nearly a third of the country's highest-paying positions. Texas also added 49,000 positions paying 125 percent to 150 percent of the U.S. average; the rest of the country lost 174,000 jobs in that category.

"Two sectors in which Texas employment did particularly well during the same period were natural-resource extraction (in fact, the state gained 80 percent of all new jobs in the country in that field) and professional, scientific, and technical positions. Both job categories boast average wages far higher than the national overall average.

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



"As happens whenever an economy grows, Texas also added hundreds of thousands of positions in food services, health care, and other lower-paid fields, in addition to the more lucrative jobs. Texas did lose 10,000 construction jobs, but that was a modest downturn, in light of the massive national slowdown in building caused by the crisis of 2008.

"Vital to the economic health of Texas is that people are moving to its cities in droves. In 2011, Houston surpassed Philadelphia in population and became the country's fifth-biggest metropolitan region, with 6.1 million people. Dallas-Fort Worth, with 6.5 million, was already the fourth biggest in the country.

"The two cities trail only New York City, Los Angeles, and Chicago, marking the first time that a single state has had two metros in the country's top five since the Census Bureau began designating these areas a century ago. Meanwhile, of all metropolitan areas in the country with more than 1 million residents, the fastest growing from 2010 to 2011 was Austin.

"What accounts for the resilience of the Texas economy, which has outperformed the rest of the country not only over the long term but during the Great Recession as well? A pro-business climate has unquestionably been a substantial advantage. In its annual ranking of business environments, Chief Executive has named Texas the most growth-friendly state for eight years in a row. (California has been last for the same eight years.)

"The reasons included low taxes and sensible regulations; a high-quality workforce (Texas ranked second only to Utah in that category in 2012); and a pleasant living environment (an eighth-place finish, slightly below sixth-place Florida but, perhaps surprisingly, far better than 28th-place California). The article also appeared recently in the WSJ.

"Arizona has seen fit to follow suit including repeal of income tax as it figures out how its new sales tax could cover projected revenue losses. The gap is usually insignificant. Must not the NMI retreat to review and recalibrate its investment policies? Would not band-aid paradigm make our efforts analogous to Candle In The Wind?

On breach or impairment of contracts

The DPL secretary-designate Pete Itibus submitted testimony just-

See CANDLE on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Mianzi on the mealy mouth

Li Kejiang, new premier from last week's National People's Congress of China, speaks English. Fluently and eloquently, too, we are told. Li Kejiang got a blog of a controversy during a state visit in Hong Kong a year ago when he delivered an economic policy speech to an English-speaking audience, shifting to English at the tail end of his prepared talk.

Several commentators in the mainland immediately castigated the then vice chair to the premier. Li Kejiang was accused for appearing less Chinese, and kowtowing to the Brits, in speaking English in Chinese territory. A loss of face, *mianzi*, was claimed, a big thing in Chinese society.

The concern for "face" takes different cultural forms, in my experience. "Keeping up with the Joneses" is the version familiar to those of us who grew up under the influence of California's social norms. Chamolinia has its version (forgot the term used). *Pinoys* follow "ano na lang ang sasabihin nila" (what will people say), often deteriorating into one-up-man-ship (the femmes included), or the all-or-nothing *fiesta* syndrome when in reckless abandon a family mortgages everything so that the daughter will reign as the barrio fiesta queen! Loss of face can be lethal in many societies around the world.

"Face" once served to maintain social stability to ensure that a pecking order stayed in place. It was primarily determined by cause, of genetics and social circumstance, abetted by the chance of good luck and good fortune, but hardly the object and subject of choice. Cause and chance have determined social status for many of China's dynasties; in it's new democratic space, choice has become the engine of vitality and innovation.

That English has become the second language of the nation since the Beijing Olympics 2008 opened the bamboo curtain to the gaze of the world is not lost on the younger generation. One of our weekend endeavors is to teach English to young children, primarily in-

jecting the listening beat into a heavily reading-writing regimen in formal schooling. We hit a gold mine of parental interest as every mother and father of a "one emperor" child wants to have their child be trained to qualify in the emerging private and public bilingual schools proliferating urban China.

In our university classroom, we focus on the pedagogy of listening, promoted by Zhang Hua of the Hangzhou Normal University. As common to all, we learned language by listening and repeating words uttered to us. Reading and writing came later. Unfortunately, our academic language methodology reversed the process so that writing and reading precedes listening and repeating.

Our run-of-the-mill student is not trained to listen. With the advent of the cellphone 15 years ago, the situation has gotten out of hand. People do not communicate on normal vibes. Folks text, or converse over cellphones. The sight of a couple on a date busy conversing in their separate worlds over the phone is not uncommon!

Talking, of course, enhances the creation of face, and with the popularity of Dale Carnegie's *How to Win Friends and Influence People* in business circles in China, the polishing of public reputation is not neglected. The lecture method set-up of most classrooms puts the teacher at the core of the learning process rather than the student.

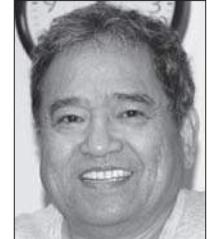
Students attend classes to figure out the best way to get a grade, and find ways to pass standardized tests, so regardless how well Professors prepare lectures, listening to them is not students' preoccupation. They'd rather polish the appearance of an "A" student.

So, I get back to the *mianzi* at the onset of my classes. "The face stays outside the door," I tell my students. Participatory methods steel our pedagogy. Classroom architecture alone negates the lecture image of learning. Adding pictures and maps that assaults human consciousness, on the walls and the center of the room, invites

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) is a former PSS teacher and is currently writing from the campus of Shenyang Aerospace University in China.



the search for what is tangibly real.

I encourage students to unmask themselves, speak from experience—of basic information on what they see, hear, smell, taste, and touch, then express their actual feelings, articulate sensible ideas and commonsense thoughts, and formulate doable plans. The aroma of authenticity wafts through the classroom. Abandonment of formally crusted *mianzi* comes with difficulty; creation of a genuine one comes as a soul-wrenching challenge. However, truth is served the real is touched.

Li Kejiang once headed Liaoning Province where we reside. In office, he avoided formal functions that heralded pompous and pretentious descriptions of accomplishments and prosperity, knowing them to be facades. He was not popular to the *ganbei* crowd whose literary acumen got more flowery with the alcohol!

Li Kejiang as premier will be responsible for the nitty-gritty daily operation of the government. He come on the heels of amiable *lao ye* Wen Jiabao, follows the lead of the President Xi Jinping and VP Li Yuan Chao. Mirage and fantasy do not undergird their agenda.

Le Kejiang keeps the *mianzi* outside the door, vowing to go further than the niceties of face to tread uncharted waters of governance. He joins colleagues whose clink of *gan bei* is in their souls!

A letter from Mom and Dad

By FRANK AGULTO

SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

My child: I was sitting outside in our porch on Saturday morning and could hear from the distance a commotion brewing in plain sight at one of our neighbor's house and a young lad was yelling real loud, and this was what he said presumably to his mother, "ni unlana hao, maulekna ha na un mamatai, baban nana hao." Am 65 years old now, and suddenly a chill came rushing down my spine, and I hesitated for a moment thinking could this happen to me one day, too. So you see, when I get old, I hope you understand and have patience with me.

In case I break a plate, or spill soup on the table because am losing my eyesight, I hope you don't yell at me. Older people are sensitive, and very "dilekao" you would know. Always having self-pity when you yell, and I would appreciate your unconditional respect for me no matter what.

When my hearing gets worse and I can't hear well what you are saying, I hope you don't call me "deaf" or "tanga." Please repeat what you said or write it down.

I'm sorry, my child because am getting older. When my knees get weaker, I hope you have patience to help me get up. Like I used to help you while you were little, learning to walk.

Please bear with me when I keep repeating myself like a broken

record. I hope you just keep listening to me. Please don't make fun of me, or get sick of listening to me. Do you remember when you were little and you wanted a box of Cracker Jacks at Joeten? You repeated yourself over and over until you got what you wanted.

Please also pardon my smell. I smell like an old person. Please don't force me to shower, my body is weak. Old people get sick easily when they are old. I hope I don't gross you out. Do you remember when you were little? I used to chase you around the house because you didn't want to shower. I don't know whether it was the "batea" that scared you the most, or you fear the cold water because it was too harsh those days. But I remember all these chores that I had to do for all your siblings as well. I hope you can be patient with me when I am always cranky. Its all part of getting old. You would understand when you are older.

And, if you have a spare time, I hope we can talk. Even for a few minutes. I'm always all by myself all the time and have no one to talk to. You see silence is painful knowing that my child is ignoring me and I don't why. I know you are busy with work and you have

to take care of your own family, and maybe I would keep you away from your weekend parties with friends and things like that. I worry too much that I would be a burden to you some day. Even if you are not interested in my stories, please have time for me. Do you remember when you were little? I used to listen to your stories about your teddy bear and Cabbage Patch doll.

When the time comes and I get ill and bedridden, I hope you have the patience to take care of me. I'm sorry, if I accidentally wet the bed or make a mess. I hope you have the patience to take care of me during the last few moments of my life. I'm not going to last much longer, anyway. When the time of my death comes, I hope you hold my hand and give me the strength to face death. And, don't worry, when I finally meet our creator, I will whisper in his ear to "BLESS YOU." Because you loved your mom and dad. Thank you so much for your care. We love you.

With love,
Mom and Dad

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Time for a change, start with CHC

I have to agree with Joville Lyn Ogoy (LTE, *Marianas Variety* March 18, 2013) on the need to resolve the many problems with CHC. Lacking operating funds and the full complement of medical staff and equipment, it has and will continue to fail the citizens of the NMI. And while some of the hospital staff are earthbound angels, some do need to go.

CHC is the most critical institution on Saipan. It needs to function as a hospital 24/7, year-round with a competent and caring staff and the requisite facilities and equipment to handle most emergencies and medical procedures without the need for off-island referrals. The issue with referrals is the fact that it usually ends up being a huge cost to the families. And should the patient die, the costs incurred are often astronomical and the patient's families left to deal with the debt and loss on their own. This is ludicrous. It should never happen and especially on U.S. soil.

As an example, I want to point out an unfortunate case involving my younger brother.

A few years back, while complaining of muscle spasms and joint pains, my brother drove to CHC where he was checked and admitted. During my visits, he complained that the care he was receiving was really inadequate. Other than the routine checks, he was left

alone to deal with his pain and misery. He mentioned that he told that staff what he was suffering from but was told that since he was not a doctor, he could not have known his disease and must be lying. Instead of being helped, he was referred to a psychiatrist!

Eventually, the staff at CHC concluded that he had to be referred to the Philippines. After 10 days of enduring extreme pain and escorted by my sister, he was flown on referral and upon arrival was taken to Asia Medical where he was rushed to the operating table for emergency heart surgery. He never woke up from the procedure. The doctor concluded that his heart had enlarged and unfortunately because it was not tended to immediately, there was nothing the staff at Asia Medical could do.

His death haunts those who know him to this day. It was unnecessary and should never have been allowed to happen. How many such incidents and events have taken place? How many people have to die needlessly? And who will be next?

It is time for a change.
Again, thanks for your time.

Noel S. Reyes
Via email

CANDLE

From Page 10

tifying opposition against HB 18-04 to appropriate the \$5 million Managaha Landing fee for expenditure elsewhere. He pointed out that such ill-conceived proposal would have an equivalence of an abrogation of the agreement between DPL and lessee.

The legislation is wobbly in tone and woefully complacent in substance as to ignore the existence of constitutional limitations.

To approve the measure is to violate Article 1, Section 10, Clause 10 of the US Constitution that states, "No state shall enter into any...law impairing the obligation of contracts". The same is echoed under the NMI Constitution. Therefore, the re-appropriation of landing fees will be a clear-cut violation of contractual obligation and constitution.

The Indigenous Affairs Office must be on full press court on these issues to ensure funds hailing from indigenous land aren't disposed contrary to pertinent constitutional provision on "segregated" funds. It must revisit the term "fiduciary" and dig down below surface to understand its substance and significance.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲ 88 ▼ 78
Palau	Cloudy	▲ 85 ▼ 75
Yap	Showers	▲ 89 ▼ 76
Chuuk	Showers	▲ 83 ▼ 78
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 79
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 79
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲ 71 ▼ 59
Beijing	Sunny	▲ 51 ▼ 33
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲ 79 ▼ 71
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲ 80 ▼ 67
London	Showers	▲ 40 ▼ 31
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲ 68 ▼ 53
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲ 91 ▼ 77
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲ 83 ▼ 65
Miami	Thundershowers	▲ 86 ▼ 67
New York	Rain	▲ 44 ▼ 29
Osaka	Rain	▲ 62 ▼ 39
Paris	Showers	▲ 48 ▼ 35
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲ 64 ▼ 31
Rome	Rain	▲ 55 ▼ 45
Salem	Showers	▲ 57 ▼ 50
San Francisco	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 64 ▼ 54
Seoul	Showers	▲ 44 ▼ 25
Tokyo	Showers	▲ 69 ▼ 44
Washington, DC	Showers	▲ 59 ▼ 34

Tides

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	6:21 AM	6:28 PM	Today	12:19 PM	12:41 AM
Thursday	6:21 AM	6:28 PM	Thursday	1:09 PM	1:28 AM
Friday	6:20 AM	6:28 PM	Friday	1:59 PM	2:13 AM
Saturday	6:19 AM	6:28 PM	Saturday	2:50 PM	2:56 AM
Sunday	6:19 AM	6:28 PM	Sunday	3:41 PM	3:38 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

■ ISLAND SNAPSHTOS

Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.

■ BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.

■ BUSINESS

Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.

■ SAMUT SARI

Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.

■ TRAVELOGUE

Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

■ CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan

To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 8, 2013

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:40am	5:30am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:25am	9:15am	Daily
UA5074	11:10am	12:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:05am	7:55am	Daily
UA5073	9:50am	10:40am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily
UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5062	3:35am	4:10am	1, 3, 5
UA5038	10:55am	11:30am	6

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:00am	8:45am	Daily
DL285	6:30am	9:15am	1, 3, 5, 7
DL297	4:25pm	7:25pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL286	7:40pm	12:15am+1	2, 4, 6, 7
DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily

SAIPAN-Osaka (KIX)

02119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily
02120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

02607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
02608	3:10am	6:20am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

Business

Savings account seizure plan draws fury in Cyprus

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP)—A plan to seize up to 10 percent of savings accounts in Cyprus to help pay for a (EURO)15.8 billion financial bailout was met with fury Monday, and the government shut down banks until later this week while lawmakers wrangled over how to keep the island nation from bankruptcy.

Though the euro and stock prices of European banks fell, global financial markets largely remained calm, and there was little sense that bank account holders elsewhere across the continent faced similar risk. Asian stock mar-

kets rose Tuesday, shaking off jitters sparked by Cyprus' financial crisis.

Political leaders in Cyprus scrambled to devise a new plan that would not be so burdensome for people with less than (EURO)100,000 in the bank.

The authorities delayed a parliamentary vote on the seizure of (EURO)5.8 billion and ordered banks to remain shut until Thursday while they try to modify the deal, which must be approved by other eurozone governments. Once a deal is in place, they will be ready to lend Cyprus (EURO)10 billion (\$13

billion) in rescue loans.

A rejection of the package could see the country go bankrupt and possibly drop out of the euro currency—an outcome that would be even more damaging to financial markets' confidence.

Even while playing down the chance of fresh market turmoil, experts warned that the surprise move broke an important taboo against making depositors pay for Europe's bailouts. As a result, it may have longer-term consequences for confidence in Europe's banking system—and its ability to



European officials say that Cyprus can amend the terms of its \$13 billion bailout that required bank customers to pay a one-time tax. The terms have sparked public outcry and closed banks.

At a glance

Size 3,570 sq. mi. (9250 sq. km)
Population 1.14 million; three-fourths are Greek

Economy

One of the smallest eurozone economies; two largest banks are among largest European holders of Greek debt, which has contributed to credit rating downgrades

- GDP per person **\$26,900**
- Growth rate **-2.3%**
- Unemployment **8%**
- Public debt **81% of GDP**

Government Republic; Nicos Anastasiades elected president in 2013 after promising to secure a financial bailout

Source: ESRI, CIA World Factbook, BBC Graphic: Pat Carr

Recent political history

1974 Greek military junta backs coup against Cypriot president; Turkish troops land in north; U.N. enforces partition along "Green Line"

2002 U.N. offers peace plan, which is later rejected by Greek Cypriots

2004 Cyprus joins EU as divided island

Recent financial history

2008 Adopts the euro

2009 Dips into recession

2011 Budget deficit rises to 7.4% of GDP; eurozone criteria requires no more than 3% of GDP

© 2013 MCT

end its financial crisis.

"It's a precedent for all European countries. Their money in every bank is not safe," said lawyer Simos Angelides at an angry protest outside parliament in Cyprus' capital, Nicosia, where people chanted, "Thieves, thieves!"

Eurozone finance ministers held a telephone conference Monday night, and concluded that small depositors should not

be hit as hard as others. They said the Cypriot authorities will stagger the deposit seizures more, but they remained firm in demanding that the overall sum of money raised by the seizures remain the same.

In the short term, there was little sign of a new explosion in the European financial crisis. Stock markets dropped in early hours but stabilized by the close. The Dow Jones industrial

Fed likely to back low-rate policies despite gains

WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.S. economy is strengthening on the fuel of more job growth, rising home prices and solid retail sales. Just don't expect the Federal Reserve to let up in its drive to keep stimulating the economy with record-low interest rates.

Not yet, anyway.

That's the view of economists as Fed policymakers hold a two-day meeting that starts Tuesday. On Wednesday, the Fed will issue a policy statement and update its economic forecasts, and Chairman Ben Bernanke will hold a news conference.

All of which will likely reinforce Bernanke's stated view that the job market, in particular, has a long way to go to full

health and still needs the Fed's extraordinary support.

The unemployment rate, at 7.7 percent, remains well above the 5 percent to 6 percent range associated with a healthy economy. The Fed has said it plans to keep short-term rates at record lows at least until unemployment falls to 6.5 percent, as long as the inflation outlook remains mild. And it foresees unemployment staying above 6.5 percent until at least the end of 2015.

On Wednesday, economists think Bernanke will acknowledge the economy's gains. But most foresee no pullback in the Fed's strategy of keeping short-term rates at record lows and of buying \$85 billion a month in Treasurys and mort-

gage bonds to keep long-term loan rates down.

"They will keep the pedal to the metal at this week's meeting," says Diane Swonk, chief economist Mesirow Financial. "Even though the economy has improved, it has not improved enough to switch course. We still don't have unemployment low enough."

The economy slowed to an annual growth rate of just 0.1 percent in the October-December quarter, a near-stall that was due mainly to temporary factors that have largely faded. Economists think growth has rebounded in the January-March quarter to an annual rate around 2 percent or more. The most recent data support that view.

Jobless rates rise in January in half of US states

WASHINGTON (AP)—Unemployment rates increased in half of U.S. states in January from December, as employers nationwide added the fewest jobs in seven months.

The Labor Department said Monday that unemployment rates rose in 25 states. They fell in only 8 states and were unchanged in 17.

Despite the increase, some long-suffering states showed improvement in January.

Florida's unemployment rate fell below the national level for the first time in five years, further evidence that the state is recovering from a deep housing slump.

And Michigan, which has benefited from the comeback of the auto industry, added 26,500 jobs in January—the most of any state. Its unemployment rate was unchanged

at 8.9 percent.

Nationally, the unemployment rate ticked up in January to 7.9 percent from 7.8 percent in December. Employers added only 119,000 jobs, down from 219,000 in December.

Job gains have since accelerated. Employers added 236,000 jobs in February, and the national unemployment rate fell to a four-year low of 7.7 percent.

Florida has added 127,500 jobs in the past year, the third most of any state. The state has benefited from greater tourism as the U.S. economy has slowly recovered. That has led to more jobs at hotels, restaurants and retail stores.

North Dakota had the lowest unemployment rate among states in January, at 3.3 percent.

It has benefited from an oil and gas boom. Nebraska had the

second lowest at 3.8 percent, followed by South Dakota at 4.4 percent.

California and Rhode Island reported the highest state unemployment rates in January, both at 9.8 percent.

Nevada had the third highest, at 9.7 percent. Still, that's down from 9.8 percent in December. And the state's unemployment rate has fallen sharply over the past 12 months, down from 12 percent in January 2012. That's the biggest year-over-year drop of any state.

One reason for the rapid decline is many out-of-work people in Nevada have stopped looking for jobs. Nevada's work force fell 1.2 percent in the 12 months through January. The government counts people as unemployed only if they are actively looking for work.

pay for travel or cover other obligations.

UN concerned over tobacco fair in Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The World Health Organization has expressed concern that the Philippines is encouraging smoking by hosting one of the world's largest tobacco trade shows. The fair called ProTobEx ASIA will be held in Manila this week for the second consecutive year. Organizers say they chose the Philippines over other locations in Asia because of its vibrant tobacco industry and the support of the local government, which has waived a ban on indoor smoking at the venue. Senior WHO adviser Eigil Sorensen said Tuesday that the Philippine government is a signatory to the international Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, which bans tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship. He says close to 14 million adult Filipinos smoke every day, and an estimated 10 die each hour from tobacco-related diseases.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Venezuela to create new foreign exchange system

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Venezuela will launch a "complementary" foreign exchange system to facilitate the supply of U.S. dollars to priority sectors of the economy, acting President Nicolas Maduro said Monday. Maduro told state television that the government would provide more details about the new system on Tuesday, but that its purpose would be to direct dollars to where "resources are most urgently needed" and to combat black market currency trading. It would complement the official foreign exchange system. "We have the will to defeat the parallel dollar," Maduro said. Venezuela has maintained strict currency controls since 2003, leading to complaints from businesses about a dearth of dollars and creating a currency black market. Under the controls, people and businesses must apply to the government currency agency to receive dollars at the official rate to import goods,



LEADING INDICATORS

DOW

14,452.10
-62.05
-0.43%

S&P

1,552.10
-8.60
-0.55%

NASDAQ

3,237.59
-11.48
-0.35%

EXCHANGE RATES

	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7597	Philippine Peso	40.68
Australian Dollar	0.9628	54.015	Singapore Dollar	1.2494
British Pound	0.6621	9712	South Korean Won	1111.3
Canadian Dollar	1.0219	95.5445	Swiss Franc	0.9467
Chinese Yuan	6.2198	3.1205	Taiwan Dollar	29.731
Euro	0.7719	1.2116	Thailand Baht	29.34

In U.S. dollar terms

Nation

Colorado governor to sign gun controls into law

DENVER (AP)—Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper will sign legislation Wednesday that sets limits on ammunition magazines and expands background checks for firearms, marking a Democratic victory in a state where gun ownership is a treasured right and Second Amendment debate has played out in the wake of two mass shootings.

The measures proposed are some of the strictest gun laws in the nation, and their passage comes after weeks of tense legislative battles. Republicans and gun rights supporters put up a major fight against the measures in this politically moderate state, while Democrats made them the centerpieces of a package of legislative proposals drafted in reaction to shooting rampages at a suburban Denver movie theater and a Connecticut elementary school last year.

“I think it will make it more difficult for people to get guns who shouldn’t have them, and that’s really the goal,” said Democratic Rep. Beth McCann on the expanded background checks.

Magazine limits would reduce gun violence and have an



AP

Krista Ceresa, right, whose mother, Ginny May, was murdered by Gary Davis in 1986, testifies against gun control legislation in the Colorado Legislature, at the State Capitol, in Denver, Monday, March 4, 2013.

Police say Fla. college student plotted attack

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—A college student with two guns, hundreds of rounds of ammunition and a backpack filled with explosives pulled a dorm fire alarm Monday in an apparent attempt to force other students out into the open so that he could slaughter them, authorities said. But he instead put a bullet in his head as police closed in.

James Oliver Seevakumaran, 30, was found dead in his dorm room at the 51,000-student Orlando campus of the University of Central Florida. No one else was hurt.

“His timeline got off,” uni-



Seevakumaran

versity Police Chief Richard Beary said. “We think the rapid response of law enforcement may have changed his ability to think quickly on his feet.”

Some 500 students were evacuated from the building in the middle of the night, unaware how narrowly they had escaped what could have been another Virginia Tech-style bloodbath.

“It could have been a very bad day here for everybody. All things considered, I think we were very blessed here,” Beary said. “Anybody armed with this type of weapon and ammunition could have hurt a lot of people here, particularly

in a crowded area as people were evacuating.”

Police shed no light on a motive, but university spokesman Grant Heston said that before the episode, the school was in the process of removing Seevakumaran from the dormitory because he hadn’t enrolled for the current semester. He had never been seen by university counselors and had no disciplinary problems with other students, Heston said.

Detectives found notes and other writings that indicated Seevakumaran had carefully planned an attack and “laid out a timeline of where he was going to be and what he was going to do,” Beary said.

impact during mass shootings, because they would force gunmen to reload more times, she said. “It’s an interruption in the spraying of bullets.”

Hickenlooper spokesman Eric Brown confirmed Monday that the governor would sign the measures.

Colorado’s gun controls, which become effective July 1, are the first beyond the East Coast approved this year. They also are getting approval as Congress embarks on its own gun debate in Washington, where Colorado Democrat’s proposals were closely watched because the state was seen as a bellwether.

The Colorado laws include

a ban on ammunition magazines that can carry more than 15 rounds, and eight shotgun shells. The bill on background checks expands the requirement to sales and transfers between private parties and online purchases.

Republicans reviled both bills and argued the proposals would not prevent more shootings, but hurt law-abiding citizens’ exercise of their Second Amendment rights.

“We’re obviously very disappointed. I think we demonstrated time and time again all of the issues associated with” the magazine limits, said Republican Rep. Mark Waller, the GOP leader in the House.

ACROSS THE NATION

Judge: 3 to stand trial in Marine wife killing

VISTA, Calif. (AP)—Three members of a sex bondage ring were ordered to stand trial Monday after six days of lurid testimony during which investigators outlined how they believe a Camp Pendleton Marine’s wife was unwittingly lured to a violent death when she agreed to go on a dinner cruise. Superior Court Judge K. Michael Kirkman said evidence suggested that

Count just the deaths directly attributed to dementia, and they’re growing fast. Nearly 85,000 people died from Alzheimer’s in 2011, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimated in a separate report Tuesday. Those are people who had Alzheimer’s listed as an underlying cause on a death certificate, perhaps because the dementia led to respiratory failure. Those numbers make Alzheimer’s the sixth leading cause of death.

go on the cruise with Perez after she asked for help moving furniture out of her apartment, according to investigators’ testimony. Even then, she was reluctant and accepted only after Maraglino, Perez’s roommate, gave her blessings to the date in a phone call.

Pacific Command contractor charged with spying

HONOLULU (AP)—A civilian defense contractor who works in intelligence at the U.S. Pacific Command has been charged with giving national security secrets to a 27-year-old Chinese woman he was dating, according to a criminal complaint unsealed Monday. Benjamin Pierce Bishop, 59, is ac-

Report: 1 in 3 seniors dies with, not of, dementia

WASHINGTON (AP)—A staggering 1 in 3 seniors dies with Alzheimer’s disease or other types of dementia, says a new report that highlights the impact the mind-destroying disease is having on the rapidly aging population.

Dying with Alzheimer’s is not the same as dying from it. But even when dementia isn’t the direct cause of death, it can be the final blow—speeding someone’s decline by interfering with their care for heart disease, cancer or other serious illnesses. That’s the assessment of the report released Tuesday by the Alzheimer’s As-

sociation, which advocates for more research and support for families afflicted by it.

“Exacerbated aging,” is how Dr. Maria Carrillo, an association vice president, terms the Alzheimer’s effect. “It changes any health care situation for a family.”

In fact, only 30 percent of 70-year-olds who don’t have Alzheimer’s are expected to die before their 80th birthday. But if they do have dementia, 61 percent are expected to die, the report found.

Already, 5.2 million Americans have Alzheimer’s or some other form of dementia. Those

“They’re doing this without any proof that banning this is going to have any impact on public safety,” he said.

Republicans seemed resigned from the start that the bills would become law, though. Hickenlooper said previously he would sign the magazine limit, and he specifically asked the Legislature to expand background checks in his annual address.

“Our only hope now is if his pen runs out of ink,” said a rueful Rep. Ray Scott, R-Grand Junction.

The governor also was planning to sign a bill reviving user fees for gun purchasers needing background checks. Colorado charged \$10 background-check fees more than a decade ago, but the fees were dropped. The Colorado Bureau of Investigation currently picks up the tab checking prospective gun owners.

A Colorado-based magazine manufacturer said it would leave the state if the new restrictions were passed, taking hundreds of jobs with it. Democrats tried to ease the concerns from Magpul Industries, saying the company can still manufacture higher-capacity magazines if they were sold out of state.

Waller blasted Democrats on that amendment, saying it was hypocritical because they are telling the company “you can sell (magazines) at any other place where any of these tragic shootings have happened.”

Waller called the exemption “a monumental inconsistency in their thought process.”

Other Democratic gun control proposals still pending in the state Legislature include a ban on gun ownership by people accused of domestic-violence crimes and a bill to eliminate online-only safety training for people seeking concealed-weapons permits.

cused of sending the woman an email last May with information on existing war plans, nuclear weapons and U.S. relations with international partners, according to the complaint filed in U.S. District Court in Honolulu. The complaint alleged Bishop told the woman over the telephone in September about the deployment of U.S. strategic nuclear systems and about the ability of the U.S. to detect other nations’ low- and medium-range ballistic missiles. Bishop met the woman at a conference in Hawaii on international military defense issues, the complaint said. It did not specify when the conference was held, but it alleged the two began an intimate, romantic relationship in June 2011.

Asia

Power still out at damaged nuclear plant in Japan

TOKYO (AP)—Four fuel storage pools at Japan's tsunami-damaged nuclear plant have been without fresh cooling water for more than 15 hours due to a power outage, but the plant's operator said Tuesday morning it was trying to repair a broken switchboard that might have caused the problem.

Tokyo Electric Power Co. said that pool temperatures were well within safe levels at the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant, and that pools would remain safe for at least four days without fresh cooling water.

The utility was preparing a backup system in case the repairs didn't fix the problem, Masayuki Ono, an official at operator Tokyo Electric Power Co., told reporters.

"If worse comes to worst, we have a backup water injection system," said Ono.

Yoshihide Suga, the chief government spokesman, sought to allay concerns.

"In a sense, we have put in place measures that leave no room for worry," Suga told reporters in a regular press briefing.

The command center at the plant suffered a brief power outage before 7 p.m. Monday. Electricity was quickly restored to the command center but not to equipment pumping water into the fuel pools.

The utility was investigating the cause of the power outage and believes it might be due to problems with a switchboard, which it is trying to repair. At the same time, the company is preparing to connect another switchboard if repairs cannot fix the problem.

The temperature in the four

pools had risen slightly, but was well below the utility's target control temperature of 65 degrees Celsius, TEPCO said.

The fuel pool for Unit 4, which contains spent and new fuel rods, had risen to 30.5 degrees as of 10 a.m. Tuesday

from 25 degrees before the power outage. A common pool storing spent fuel for all reactors was at 28.6 degrees, while the Unit 1 pool was at 17.1 degrees and Unit 3 was at 15.9 degrees.

TEPCO said the reactors were unaffected and no other

abnormalities were found.

The March 11, 2011, earthquake and tsunami destroyed the plant's power and cooling systems, causing three reactor cores to melt and fuel storage pools to overheat. The plant is now using makeshift systems.



AP

In this March 11, 2013 file photo, red and white cranes stand by reactor buildings Unit 1 to 4, from top, at the tsunami-ravaged Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant in Okuma, Fukushima Prefecture, northeastern Japan.

Ex-US diplomat rankles Taiwan with defense remarks

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—The former top American diplomat in Taiwan has said that the island's declining military budgets have left it vulnerable to Chinese attack and made it easier for mainland spies to penetrate its armed forces, remarks that the defense ministry called "not entirely objective."

The comments from William Stanton constituted an unusually hard-hitting critique of Taiwan's national security posture, and stood in sharp contrast to repeated assertions of American support for President Ma Ying-jeou's five-year program of seeking to lower tensions with the mainland, from which Taiwan split amid civil war in 1949.

A career diplomat, Stanton was head of the de facto U.S. embassy in Taiwan from August 2009 to August 2012. His remarks came in a speech before a pro-independence organization in Taipei on Friday.

Responding to Stanton's charges, the defense ministry acknowledged Monday that between 2003 and 2008 un-

specified "political reasons" led to cuts in the duration of military service "which impacted negatively on the quality of military exercises and on force preparedness." It did not elaborate.

It also said it regretted that defense spending was unable to exceed 3 percent of GDP, but said that despite budgetary difficulties it had made "appropriate" expenditures on transitioning to an all-volunteer force and "meeting other major defense needs."

Since 1994, Taiwan's defense expenditures have steadily declined. In 2012, they constituted 2.2 percent of GDP, far below the 3 percent target Ma fixed when he came into office in 2008.

One of Stanton's sharpest criticisms was reserved for a possible link between declining Taiwanese military morale and the upsurge in Chinese espionage penetrations of the Taiwanese armed forces. Citing press sources, Stanton said there had been at least nine of these penetrations between 2004 and 2011, and that many had tar-

geted "Taiwan's command and control and communication systems and U.S. weapons systems sold to Taiwan."

"These cases have been harmful not only because of the potential loss of unknown quantities of classified information, but also because their success and frequency serves to undermine U.S. confidence in security cooperation with Taiwan," Stanton said.

His charge constitutes what is believed to be the first public acknowledgement from a U.S. government official—serving or recently retired—that Chinese espionage against Taiwanese targets may be impacting America's willingness to provide security assistance to Taipei.

Responding to Stanton's charge, the defense ministry said it had been zealous in pursuing cases of Chinese espionage against the Taiwanese military, and that this zealousness proved its "credibility" in combating the Chinese spying threat.

"We will continue working on measures to safeguard our security," it said.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Bus falls off bridge in India, killing at least 37

NEW DELHI (AP)—A bus packed with passengers crashed through a guard rail and fell off a bridge in western India early Tuesday, killing at least 37 people and injuring another 15, police said. The overnight bus was carrying passengers from the beach resort state of Goa to Mumbai when it crashed in Ratnagiri district of Maharashtra, said Mahendra Singh Pardeshi, a police official present at the site. The area is about 200 kilometers (125 miles) south of Mumbai. The cause of the accident was not immediately clear. The driver was among those injured in the pre-dawn accident.

Ship sinks off China, killing at least 11 crew

BEIJING (AP)—A container ship has sunk off the east coast of China, killing at least 11 crew members and leaving two missing. One man has been rescued by helicopter. Rescue officials in the city of Yantai in Shandong province say the ship, named Guangyangxiong, capsized Monday

evening amid strong winds, northeast of Longkou in Shandong. They say two rescue vessels and a helicopter were searching for the missing crew members Tuesday. The ship was travelling from the northern coastal city of Tianjin to the city of Taizhou in Zhejiang province.

Myanmar parliament may review constitution

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Lawmakers in Myanmar say parliament may agree this week to establish a commission that would consider amending the country's 2008 pro-military constitution, which critics charge is undemocratic. A lawmaker from opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party, Phyoe Min Thein, says the two houses of parliament might agree Wednesday to form the commission. The NLD has long said that the constitution is undemocratic because of provisions that allow the military to control a substantial percentage of parliamentary seats and disqualify Suu Kyi from running for the presidency.

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—The Pakistani Taliban on Monday withdrew their offer of holding peace talks with the government, saying that the authorities were not serious about following through with negotiations.

The Taliban statement came as a pair of suicide bombers attacked a court complex in the northwestern city of Peshawar. The Taliban claimed responsibility.

One of the attackers was shot to death, but the other detonated his explosives in a packed courtroom, killing four people and wounding more than 40 in the attack.

The Taliban have been waging a bloody insurgency against the government for more than five years, killing thousands of people.

The group first said it was

open to negotiations at the end of last year in a letter sent to a local newspaper and a video released by Pakistani Taliban chief Hakimullah Mehsud.

Rehman Malik, who was interior minister until the government's term ended over the weekend, said in February that Islamabad was ready to hold peace talks, and appeared to drop an earlier demand that the Taliban lay down their weapons and renounce violence before negotiations—a condition rejected by the militants.

Politicians from the country's main political parties also called for peace talks with the Taliban in February, at a meeting held in Islamabad to discuss the issue.

But Pakistani Taliban spokesman Ahsanullah Ahsan said in a video sent to reporters on Monday that the group "has tempo-

rarily postponed the offer of negotiations" after an "unserious response" by the government.

He accused the army of continuing its war against the Taliban in order to receive military aid from the United States.

"Generals and politicians are sacrificing the country for their own interests," said Ahsan.

He called on Pakistanis to boycott national elections in May, saying Islamic law should be enforced instead.

"If this system is not rejected, the long, dark night of oppression will linger," said Ahsan.

He advised people to avoid rallies by the Pakistan People's Party, which led the latest government, and by two other parties that have strongly opposed the militants, the Muttahida Qaumi Movement and the Awami National Party.

World

Syrian opposition elects interim prime minister

ISTANBUL (AP)—Syria's opposition coalition early Tuesday elected a little-known American-educated IT manager and Islamic activist to head an interim government to administer areas seized by rebel forces from President Bashar Assad's troops.

Ghassan Hitto received 35 votes out of 48 ballots cast by the opposition Syrian National Coalition's 63 active members during a meeting in Istanbul. The results were read aloud by coalition member Hisham Marwa to applause from a few dozen of his colleagues who had waited until after 1 a.m. to hear the results.

"I miss my wife and children and I look forward to seeing them soon," said Hitto, who has lived in the United States for decades and recently moved from Texas to Turkey to help coordinate aid to rebel-held areas.

When asked what his interim government's first priority would be, Hitto said he planned to give a speech later Tuesday outlining his plans.

Coalition members hope the new government will unite the



In this image taken from video obtained from the Shaam News Network, which has been authenticated based on its contents and other AP reporting, Free Syrian Army fighters fire at Syrian army soldiers during a fierce firefight in Daraa al-Balad, Syria, Monday March 18, 2013.

spent decades abroad.

"How can a civilian come and tell these fighters on the ground, 'Drop your weapons. It's my turn to rule?'" asked Adib Shishakly, the coalition's representative to a group of Gulf nations known as the Gulf Cooperation Council, before the results were announced.

Hitto's election follows two failed attempts to form interim governments due to opposition infighting. Coalition members also say they received insufficient international support to allow them to project their authority to groups inside Syria. The new government could have the same problem.

"You have to find a way to cooperate with these groups and you can only rule by providing services, which requires funding," Shishakly said.

The council's creation of an interim government renders even more remote the chances of ending the war through negotiations with Assad's government - the preferred solution of the U.S. and other world powers.

The U.S. has been cool to the idea of a rebel government to rival Assad's and supports a peace plan put forward by the U.N. and the Arab League that calls for the formation of a transitional government that represents both the regime and the opposition.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Tuesday reiterated his call for a political solution "while there is still time to prevent Syria's complete destruction."

Israeli government sends mixed signals on peace

JERUSALEM (AP)—Ahead of the arrival of President Barack Obama on a high-profile Mideast mission, Israel's new government on Monday sent mixed messages about pursuing peace with the Palestinians.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in a speech to parliament that his hand is outstretched in peace and that he is ready for a "historic compromise," but one of his closest allies called hopes for peace "delusional."

The conflicting signals gave a glimpse of the infighting that is likely to hinder the government if Netanyahu,

who has historically been reluctant to make serious concessions to the Palestinians, decides to launch any new diplomatic initiatives.

"The rhetoric about peace is one thing and doing peace is something else. Doing peace requires deeds," Saeb Erekat, the chief Palestinian negotiator, said of the new Israeli government.

Well aware of the large gaps between the sides, Obama has been careful to lower expectations for the 48-hour visit, which begins Wednesday. The White House has already said he will not bring any bold new initiatives. He will leave the

details of diplomacy to his secretary of state, John Kerry, who is expected in the region in the coming weeks.

Instead, Obama plans to meet separately with Israeli and Palestinian leaders in hopes of finding some common ground. Toward that goal, the White House confirmed Monday that the president has added a third, previously unscheduled meeting with Netanyahu on Thursday, immediately after returning from talks with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in the West Bank. There are no plans for the three to meet together.

rebels fighting Assad's forces on the ground and provide services to Syrians living in rebel-held areas, many of which have been battered by the country's civil war and suffer acute shortages of food, electricity and medical services.

But the new government faces huge challenges, starting with its ability to gain recognition from rebel factions on the ground.

As rebels have progressed in

northern and eastern Syria, a patchwork of rebel groups and local councils have sought to fill the void left by the government's withdrawal by organizing security patrols, reopening bakeries and running courts and prisons. It is unclear if these groups, many of which have taken charge of their own towns, will accept an outside authority, especially if it is headed by someone who has

US says hunger strike grows to 21 at Guantanamo

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)—A hunger strike at the Guantanamo Bay prison has grown and now involves at least 21 men, a U.S. military official said Monday while denying reports trickling out from prisoners through lawyers that there is a more widespread protest and lives are in danger.

No prisoner faces any immediate health threat from the strike, though two have been admitted to the prison medical clinic because of dehydration, said Navy Capt. Robert Durand, a spokesman for the detention center at the U.S. base in Cuba.

In recent weeks, as lawyers returned from Guantanamo with accounts of clients weak from hunger and an angry standoff with guards, the military had said no more than a handful of prisoners met the definition of being on hunger strike, which includes missing nine consecutive meals.

That figure rose to 14 on Friday, and then grew by seven over the weekend. It has become the largest and most sus-

tained protest at Guantanamo in several years, but Durand insisted there is no evidence to support reports of a strike involving most of the 166 men held there.

"The detainees certainly have the support of one another," Durand said. "But if it was 166, I would tell you it was 166. I don't have a reason to lowball or pad the numbers."

A prisoner from Yemen, Yasein Esmail, told his attorney that he lost about 35 pounds (15 kilograms) after striking for 29 days and was struggling to keep his balance, according to notes taken by the lawyer, Washington-based David Remes, during a March 5 visit.

"Many of the detainees are desperate," Esmail told his attorney. "They feel like they're living in graves."

The U.S. military does not identify hunger strikers and will not let journalists speak to prisoners so the account could not be verified.

A letter sent Thursday to Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel that was signed by more than 50

Pope Francis to get simple coat of arms, ring

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Pope Francis is mixing his Argentine past with his Roman present to create his new papal coat of arms, while harking back to a pope associated with the Second Vatican Council for the simple ring that he will receive during Tuesday's installation Mass.

The Vatican on Monday released details of the symbols of Francis' pontificate, which in its inaugural days has been marked by his preference for simplicity and aversion to Holy See splendor.

The new pope chose to keep



Pope Francis

the same coat of arms he had as archbishop of Buenos Aires, and picked the simplest ring out of several models offered him. It is fashioned in gold-plated silver and was once a gift to Pope Paul VI, who presided over the second half of Vatican II, the meetings that modernized the church.

The coat of arms has a necessary addition—the papal symbols surrounding it: a gilded miter, and crossed gold and silver keys.

The shield itself, in very simple almost modern heraldry, depicts a star, a grape-

like plant, and a monogram of Christ at the center of a fiery sun. The symbols represent the three members of the Holy Family, Jesus, Mary and Joseph. In religious writing, Mary is often referred to as a "star," while St. Joseph is often depicted holding a nard, a Middle Eastern plant. The monogram is the symbol of Francis' Jesuit order.

His motto suggests even more about the root of Francis' message:

"Miserando atque eligendo," Latin for "Having had mercy, he called him," comes from an episode in the Gospel where Christ picks a seemingly unworthy person to follow him.

Another apparent factor in the protest is the fact that the U.S. has largely stopped transferring and releasing prisoners because of security restrictions imposed by Congress and the administration of President Barack Obama.

In Celebration of Her New Life

† Josefa Castro Cruz

Lovingly known as "NINA"

April 21, 1929 – March 13, 2013

In her new life, she now joins her:

Parents: Francisco Roberto Cruz
Soledad Castro Cruz

Marternal Grandparents: Solomon Diaz Castro (Tan Mong)
Rita DeLeon Castro (Nan Rita)

Paternal Grandparents: Vicente Sn. Pedro Dela Cruz (Tatan Bisco)
Maria Sablan Dela Cruz (Nanan Robat)

Sister: **Rita Cruz Cabrera**

Brother: **Angel Castro Cruz**

Niece: **Letitia May Cabrera Borja**

Her loving memories will forever live in the hearts of her nephew and family

Francisco Cruz and Barbara Pangelinan Cabrera

Sons: **Jonathan Joseph (Boboy) P. Cabrera**
Francisco Roberto (Frankie) P. Cabrera

Reared Children: Garijo Francis (Kiko) D. Gamab and Gwen Tiffany D. Gamab

She will be greatly missed by her Brother-in-law and family:

Jose Camacho and Queenie Cabrera, (Tisha)

She is additionally survived by:

Margaret C. and Joaquin Dela Cruz and family
Carmen C. Cabrera and family

Daily Mass of Intentions is being celebrated each morning at 11:45 am at Kristo Rai Church.

**Funeral Services will be held on Saturday, March 23, 2013 at Nuestra
Senora de Soledad Church in Kagman at six o'clock in the morning.**

6:00 AM **Responso Service**
6:15 AM **Holy Rosary**
6:30 AM **Mass of Christian Burial**

**Interment Service will take place at Sanctuario PAX Memorial
Gardens where she will be at a peaceful rest.**

Thank you Si Yu'us ma'ase.

Frank C. and Bobbie P. Cabrera, Children and Family

Focus

Monitoring your kids on Facebook? That's so 2009

By ANNE FLAHERTY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)—Relieved your kids aren't posting embarrassing messages and goofy self-portraits on Facebook? They're probably doing it on Instagram and Snapchat instead.



In this March 4, 2013 photo, Rebecca Levey, mother of 10-year old twin daughters, poses for a photograph in the girls' bedroom in New York.

The number of popular social media sites available on kids' mobile devices has exploded in recent years. The smartest apps now enable kids to chat informally with select groups of friends without bumping up against texting limits and without being monitored by parents, coaches and college admissions officers, who are frequent Facebook posters themselves.

Many of the new mobile apps don't require a cellphone or a credit card. They're free and can be used on popular portable devices such as the iPod Touch and Kindle Fire, as long as there's a wireless Internet connection.

According to the Pew Research Center's Internet and American Life Project, more than three-fourths of teenagers have a cellphone and use online social networking sites such as Facebook. But educators and kids say there is plenty of anecdotal evidence to suggest that Facebook for teenagers has become a bit like a school-sanctioned prom—a necessary rite of passage with plenty of adult onlookers—while apps such as Snapchat and Kik Messenger are the much cooler after-party.

Educators say they have seen everything from kids using their mobile devices to circulate online videos of school drug searches to male students sharing nude pictures of their girlfriends. Most parents, they say, have no idea.

"What sex education used to be—it's now the 'technology talk' we have to have with our kids," said Rebecca Levey, a mother of 10-year-old twin daughters who runs a tween video review site called KidzVuz.com and blogs about technology and education issues.

Eileen Patterson, a stay-at-home mom of eight kids in Burke, Va., said she used to consider herself fairly tech savvy and is frequently on Facebook, but was shocked to learn her kids could message their friends with just an iPod Touch. She counts nine wireless devices

in her home and has taken to shutting off her home's Wi-Fi after 9 p.m., but Patterson calls her attempt to keep tabs on her kids' online activity "a war I'm slowly losing every day."

"I find myself throwing up my hands every now and again," Patterson said. "Then I'll see something on TV or read an article in the paper about some horrible thing that happened to some poor child and their family, and then I try to be more vigilant. But the reality is, I'm ... stupid" when it comes to social media.

Mobile apps refer to the software applications that can be downloaded to a mobile device through an online store such as Apple's iTunes. According to the Federal Trade Commission, there are some 800,000 apps available through Apple and 700,000 apps on Google Play.

Among the most popular mobile apps among kids is Instagram, free software that digitally enhances photos and posts them to your account online. The photos can be shared on other social media sites such as Facebook, which bought Instagram last year.

Then there's Snapchat, among the top 10 free iPhone apps available. Coined by the media as the "sexting" app, Snapchat lets you send a text, photo or video that self-destructs within 10 seconds of being opened.

Kik Messenger also allows unlimited texting for free and offers anonymity to its users. Able to run on an iPod Touch or Kindle Fire, Kik allows vague user names—for example, a nickname or a string of random digits—that won't reveal a person's real name or phone number.

But as with anything online, each of these apps comes with serious caveats.

Snapchat, for example, acknowledges on its Web page that its messages aren't guaranteed to disappear: Anyone receiving a text or photo can use their 10 seconds to capture a "screenshot," or photo of their device's

See MONITORING on Next Page

IN CELEBRATION OF HER NEW LIFE

Naomi Therese DeLeon Guerrero Benjamin

Lovingly known as "Omi"

Born to This Life on November 10, 1991
Called to Eternal Life on March 16, 2013

In her new life, she now joins her

Maternal Grandmother: Maria Crispina Ada DeLeon Guerrero
Paternal Grandparents: Carmina Weilbacher & Ichiro Edwin Benjamin

Auntie & Uncles :

Cousin:
Nephew:
God sister:

She will be greatly missed by her

Parents: Nicholas Weilbacher & Elaine Christina DeLeon Guerrero Benjamin

James Kennedy & Maria 'Kiki'

Elizabeth (Maria Maelaine, Angelo Nicolas, Marlaina Kenzie, and Derence James Victorio)

Nicole Alessandra & John Peter (Ava Carmina)

Richard Abraham

Nadia Rae & Benwachi (Elena Therese)

Joseph Raymond Muna Berki

Javen Jasper Salas Montenegro

Rosiky & Winnie Camacho and Freddy Jr. & Rinenta Hofsneider

Loving Friend:

Son at heart:

Godparents:

Naomi's outgoing personality and fun-loving spirit will also be missed and forever cherished by her many godchildren, aunties and uncles, cousins, nephews and nieces, friends and co-workers.

Mass for the repose of her soul is being offered daily at 6 a.m. at Mount Carmel Cathedral. Prayer of the Holy Rosary is being said nightly at 7 p.m. also at Mount Carmel Cathedral.

On Saturday, March 23rd, Naomi's remains will be escorted from the Borja Funeral Home to Mount Carmel Cathedral at 8:30 a.m. for funeral service and last respects. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 2 p.m., followed by interment services at Mount Carmel Cemetery.

Thank you all, Si Yu'us Ma'ase, and Kalangan for your presence, thoughts, and prayers.

Campus Life

Colleges say federal cuts could cause brain drain

By BRIDGET MURPHY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BOSTON (AP)—At the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, faculty fret about the future of the school's Plasma Science and Fusion Center.

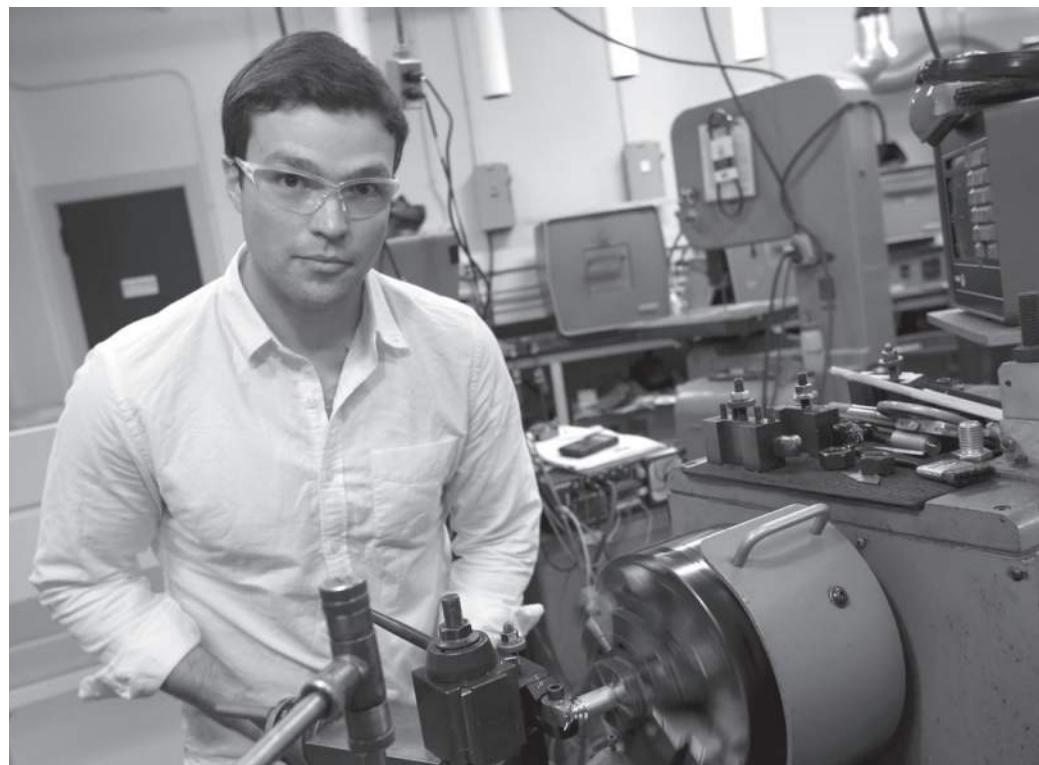
Thirty miles away, administrators at the state university campus in Lowell worry that research aimed at designing better body armor for soldiers could suffer.

The concerns have emerged because of automatic federal budget cuts that could reduce government funding for research done at educational institutions, spending that totaled about \$33.3 billion in 2010, Department of Education statistics show. And the possible cuts add to another anxiety at those schools and others across the country: brain drain.

President Barack Obama and lawmakers failed to agree on a plan to reduce the nation's deficit that would have avoided the automatic spending cuts, which began to roll out this month. Included in the cuts are 5 percent of the money for programs that fund education research, a Department of Education spokesman said Friday. But because negotiations over how to balance the budget are ongoing, the timing and size of many cuts to be made by government agencies remain unclear.

"One of the questions we don't know is if agencies will elect to cut funding by not making new grants or cutting back on old grants," said Terry Hartle, a senior vice president at American Council on Education.

In the meantime, professors are left wondering how many young scientists will become discouraged by domestic funding challenges and either leave for careers abroad or change fields.



Massachusetts Institute of Technology doctoral candidate in mechanical engineering Nikolai Begg poses in an MIT workshop in Cambridge, Mass., Friday, March 15, 2013. AP

At MIT, doctoral candidate Nikolai Begg said he's lucky the research he's working on now has corporate sponsorship.

"It's kind of scary to be hearing that a lot of that support is going away," he said of government cuts. "How do we keep America technologically relevant has been a question on everybody's mind. And the sequester only makes that harder."

The 25-year-old mechanical engineer recently won a \$30,000 Lemelson-MIT award for inventions that aim to make surgical procedures less invasive. But Begg is concerned about whether government funding losses could force undergraduates who are contemplating higher degrees to enter the workforce for financial reasons, meaning a loss of American ingenuity in the end.

"I wonder if this whole issue is going to prevent people from going into more advanced research where they can really innovate ... We don't really know what it's going to do yet. There's not enough information out. You know the storm is coming."

Some university officials say a loss of federal funding from the cuts aggravates a current trend: Scientists already have less time to spend in their labs because they have to spend more time seeking grants.

"What the sequester has done is make more dramatic this trend," said Scott Zeger, Johns Hopkins University's vice provost for research. "... It means that people aren't spending quiet time thinking about how nature works."

Breast cancer researcher Dr. Debu Tripathy, a professor at Keck School of Medicine of

University of Southern California, compared a scientist who doesn't spend enough time in a lab because of grant writing to a politician who is too busy campaigning for re-election to serve constituents.

He worries the country's commitment to a war on cancer, going back to the signing of the National Cancer Act in 1971, could falter. Tripathy said a lot of good science isn't getting funded and bright minds aren't coming into the field.

"If we don't engage the brightest minds to continue the trajectory we're on, then that will affect a whole generation," the doctor said.

At Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, dean Dr. Larry Shapiro said the automatic cuts are causing anxiety among young researchers who are wondering what career

options they'll have if the current economic climate becomes "the new normal."

"This is all that's being discussed in the hallways and over coffee," he said.

He said two genetics researchers recently decided to leave the university and move their labs to the United Kingdom amid the climate of funding losses.

"Scientists are passionate about their work, and they'll go where they have the best opportunity to accomplish it," Shapiro said.

Washington University School of Medicine could be looking at \$30 million to \$40 million in budget cuts because of cutbacks at the National Institutes of Health, and possibly having to cut 300 scientific personnel jobs, according to Shapiro. The school is part of a consortium working on new therapies for Alzheimer's disease, and he said that work would be slowed considerably because the NIH is a big funding source.

At University of Massachusetts-Amherst, school officials are projecting that they could lose about \$8 million in research money, which could affect projects including biofuels research.

But UMass-Amherst chemistry professor Paul Lahti, who is leading research on better ways to harvest solar energy, said it's the job of senior faculty members to keep students encouraged and excited about the future of discovery despite negative economic factors.

"You carry on and do the best work you can," Lahti tells them.

"The science is going to get done," the professor said. "The younger people in the end are the ones that are our most important project."

CAMPUS BULLETIN

UOG to host Marianas History Conference

The 2013 Marianas History Conference, "One Archipelago, Many Stories: Integrating Our Narratives," will be held in Guam on Aug. 30-31, 2013. Abstracts for papers and posters may be submitted at guampedia.com by April 3, 2013. The Guampedia website also accepts conference registration with an early registration fee of \$25 or \$10 for students with a valid ID. The number of registrants will be capped at 220. Late registration is \$40.

For more information, visit www.guampedia.com/the-2nd-marianas-history-conference, or contact Dr. Anne Perez Hattori (ahattori@uguam.ugam.edu) or Dr. Michael Clement (mclement@uguam.ugam.edu). **(UOG)**

MHS calendar of events

- March 21: Early dismissal at 12pm
- March 21: Graduating seniors, last day to pay for at least half of your cap and gown orders
- March 22: No classes; state level professional development
- March 25-29: Spring break (no classes)
- April 1: Students back to school

In addition, on a daily basis, students are encouraged to leave campus as soon as possible unless they are here for teacher-sanctioned activities such as club meetings, after-school class, and sports practice. For safety reasons, students are not allowed to hang out on campus after 4:30pm.

If you have any questions, call the Main Office at 237-3206. **(PR)**

MONITORING

From Page 18

screen, and save that image to their phone. Video also can be downloaded, although Snapchat says it alerts senders when their data is saved.

Instagram is generally considered pretty tame as long as kids adjust their privacy settings to limit who can see their photos and don't post nudity, which could subject them to child pornography laws. But Levey points out that many parents don't know their kids are on Instagram until there's trouble—usually when kids post photos at parties, and other kids who aren't invited see them.

Dale Harkness, a technology director at Richmond-Burton Community High School in Richmond, Ill., said parents often will hand their

kids a mobile device without understanding exactly what it can do. He estimates that even without the latest social media app, the average high school student probably transmits some 150 texts a day.

"It's not anything that every parent and grandparent hasn't already seen," Harkness said.

There are general security

then posted the pictures on Instagram. According to a letter to parents by the school district's superintendent that was later posted online, police were warning students to delete any downloaded pictures by Monday or face criminal charges under child pornography laws.

There are general security

accounts, including Facebook and Skype, and found naked photos and personal passwords that women had stored online. He used the naked photos to try to coerce women into disrobing for him via Skype and threatened to post their private photos to their Facebook accounts if they refused to comply, accord-

ing to the indictment.

Also worth noting is that almost every mobile app available collects some kind of personal data, such as a person's birthdate or the location of their phone, and shares that information with third parties for marketing purposes. While a new regulation by the Federal Trade Commission this year is aimed at

"I believe that our children have a right to develop, to grow up and to make mistakes," Markey said. "Nobody should be penalized for something they posted when they were 9 years old."

Several consumer advocates

The problem, he adds, is the actions "get documented, replayed and sent around," and kids "forget how fast it moves and how far it goes."

That was the case at Ridgewood High School in Ridgewood, N.J., where a male student allegedly took a screenshot of nude pictures sent to him by female classmates via Snapchat,

concerns too. A recent report by a cyberthreat research company, called F-Secure, found that some of the new social networking sites have become ripe targets for spreading malware and propagating scams.

In January, the FBI arrested a 27-year-old man in Los Angeles who allegedly hacked into hundreds of social media and email

actually recommend exposing their kids to social media sites earlier than age 12, when they're more receptive to hearing lessons about online etiquette and safety.

For example, Levey links her kids' devices to her iTunes account so she's aware of any program they download. She also requires that her kids "friend" her on every program and follow certain ground rules: protect your passwords, set your privacy controls and never transmit inappropriate pictures or words.

Levey thinks a big hurdle for parents is getting over the idea that they are invading their kids' privacy by monitoring online activity. In fact, she said, it can be the kid's first lesson that nothing online is truly private anyway.

"If they want privacy, they should write in a journal and hide it under their mattress," Levey said.

ON THE NET

- Federal Trade Commission's guide to talking to kids about being online: <http://1.usa.gov/PWkwfp>
- Common Sense Media reviews many social media apps: <http://www.commonsensemedia.org>
- Department of Education on cyberbullying: <http://www.stopbullying.gov>
- FBI on warning signs: <http://1.usa.gov/dwk5QF>

Life & Style

OS ANGELES (AP)— Lindsay Lohan isn't headed back to jail—but she won't be free to party for a while either.

The troubled 26-year-old actress accepted a plea deal on Monday in a misdemeanor car crash case that includes 90 days in a locked-down rehabilitation facility that she won't be able to leave.

Lohan, who has struggled for years with legal problems and been briefly jailed five times, pleaded no contest to reckless driving and lying to police who were investigating the accident involving the actress in June along Pacific Coast Highway.

A charge of obstructing an officer was dropped.

Lohan also was found in violation of her probation in a 2011 necklace theft and sentenced to 180 days in jail.

However, she can avoid jail time if she complies with the conditions of her plea deal, which also includes 30 days of community labor, 18 months of psychological therapy and an unspecified fine and restitution.

Lohan spoke little to Superior Court Judge James R. Dabney in court and said "yes" when asked if she accepted the plea deal. Before the "Mean Girls" actress left the courtroom, Dabney offered her a suggestion.

"Don't drive," he said.

Dabney did not set a date for Lohan to begin rehab. Instead he set another hearing for May 2, when the court must be given proof of enrollment in a treatment program.

The sentence extends Lohan's probation for another two years. Dabney warned her that there won't be any discussion about putting her back on probation if she doesn't meet the conditions of the latest sentence.

Lohan arrived nearly an hour



Actress Lindsay Lohan arrives at the Los Angeles Superior court Monday, March 18, 2013. Lohan is charged with three misdemeanor counts stemming from a crash on Pacific Coast Highway.

Lohan will go to rehab as part of plea deal

late for Monday's proceedings and was showered with confetti as she passed through a barrage of media to enter the courthouse.

The "Freaky Friday" star reportedly missed her original Sunday night flight from New York to Los Angeles, instead traveling on a private plane provided by a Los Angeles-based energy drink company for which she has made promotional appearances.

"Thanks Mr. Pink for the private jet see you all in a few hours in LA," she tweeted early Monday.

After entering the courtroom,

Lohan sat for more than two hours as her New York-based attorney, Mark Jay Heller, and prosecutors ironed out a plea deal.

After a pair of arrests for driving under the influence in 2007, Lohan has resolved her numerous legal issues without going to trial.

Instead she has faced judges who have sentenced her to rehab and counseling, which even her current attorney acknowledges have not completely helped the troubled actress.

Lohan entered Monday's hearing with a lawyer whose competence has been questioned by a judge. At one point

during the proceedings, she told an incessant Heller not to "say anything else." Lohan and Heller were joined by Long Beach-based attorney Anthony J. Falangetti.

Lohan's longtime advocate, Shawn Holley, left the case earlier this year after keeping the actress out of jail for significant periods of time on probation violations and the allegation in 2011 that she took a \$2,500 necklace without permission from an upscale jeweler.

After Lohan left the courthouse, her father, Michael Lohan, who brought his own legal

team to the proceedings, confronted Heller and Falangetti.

Michael Lohan told reporters that Heller was being investigated for witness tampering in the case and was not being paid by his daughter. Instead, Lohan said the attorney took the case to gain media attention. Heller did not respond to the claim by Lohan at the courthouse. A call to his New York office was not immediately returned.

"Go home," Michael Lohan called out to him. "You have done enough damage. Leave my daughter alone and stay out of the press. You're a parasite."



This file film image provided by Disney Enterprises shows James Franco, as Oz, left, and the character Finley, voiced by Zach Braff, in a scene from "Oz the Great and Powerful."

'Oz' holds box-office lead with \$46.6 million

NEW YORK (AP)—"Oz the Great and Powerful" continued to live up to its name, leading the weekend box office for the second week with \$46.6 million.

The Halle Berry thriller "The Call" opened well above expectations, taking in \$17.1 million in its debut.

The top 20 movies at U.S. and Canadian theaters Friday through Sunday, followed by distribution studio, gross, number of theater locations, average receipts per location, total gross and number of weeks in release, as compiled Monday by Hollywood.com are:

1 "Oz the Great and Powerful," Walt Disney, \$41,252,702, 3912 locations, \$10,545 average, \$144,056,326, two weeks.

2 "The Call," Sony, \$17,118,745, 2507 locations, \$6,828 average,

\$17,118,745, one week.

3 "The Incredible Burt Wonderstone," Warner Bros. \$10,177,257, 3160 locations, \$3,221 average, \$10,177,257, one week.

4 "Jack the Giant Slayer," Warner Bros., \$6,314,262, 3357 locations, \$1,881 average, three weeks.

5 "Identity Thief," Universal, \$4,419,310, 2842 locations, \$1,555 average, \$123,606,175, six weeks.

6 "Snitch," Lionsgate, \$3,504,618, 2353 locations, \$1,489 average, \$37,261,895, four weeks.

7 "21 and Over," Relativity Media, \$2,669,967, 2424 locations, \$1,101 average, \$21,918,740, three weeks.

8 "Silver Linings Playbook," Weinstein Co., \$2,525,603, 1602 locations, \$1,577 average, \$124,551,782, 18 weeks.

9 "Safe Haven," Relativity Media, \$2,453,229, 2206 locations, \$1,112, \$66,911,039, five weeks.

10 "Escape From Planet Earth," Weinstein Co., \$2,339,419, 2211 locations, \$1,058 average, \$52,178,000, five weeks.

11 "Dead Man Down," FilmDistrict, \$2,126,029, 2,188 locations, \$972 average, \$9,373,369, two weeks.

12 "The Last Exorcism, Part II," CBS Films, \$1,276,070, 1575 locations, \$810 average, \$14,381,174, three weeks.

13 "Life of Pi," Fox, \$1,224,692, 646 locations, \$1,896 average, \$121,344,826, 17 weeks.

14 "A Good Day to Die Hard," Fox, \$1,157,499, 1117 locations, \$1,036 average, \$65,471,646, five weeks.

15 "Quartet," Weinstein Co., \$936,699, 688 locations, \$1,361 average, \$14,833,591, 10 weeks.

16 "Emperor," Roadside Attractions, \$625,518, 311 locations, \$2,011 average, \$2,028,581, two weeks.

17 "Warm Bodies," Lionsgate, \$569,290, 659 locations, \$864 average, \$64,580,200, seven weeks.

18 "Dark Skies," Weinstein Co., \$544,605, 703 locations, \$775 average, \$16,647,116, four weeks.

Lohan, who's had a strained relationship with his daughter over the years, was restrained by his attorney and separated from Heller and Falangetti by a sheriff's deputy.

Heller "is her official representative," Falangetti told Lohan. "You are not."

Lindsay Lohan has been a courthouse mainstay since 2010 when she failed to appear for a probation hearing because she claimed she lost her passport in France.

By that point, she had already been on probation for nearly three years on the pair of driving under the influence cases that took the former Disney star five years to resolve.

Lohan has been under some form of probation since her 2007 convictions and has been repeatedly sent to jail and rehab for violations ranging from failing to perform her community service to skipping counseling sessions.

All her jail stints have been short because she has only been convicted of misdemeanors and because of jail overcrowding.

Out of court, Lohan has struggled to regain her stature in Hollywood. She missed the premiere of "Machete" in 2010 because of her court troubles, and her acting return in 2012's "Liz & Dick" was widely panned by critics and viewers.

Her next project is "The Canyons," a film by Bret Easton Ellis that also features porn star James Deen.

Lohan relocated to New York after work on the movie was complete, but her return to her childhood home has had its share of drama. She has been arrested twice, though not charged, for late-night incidents in which she has been accused of hitting a man with her car and striking a woman at a Manhattan nightclub.

Trustee wants to sell Casey Anthony's life story

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—The trustee overseeing Casey Anthony's bankruptcy case has filed a motion to sell the rights to her story so she can pay her debts.

In a motion filed Friday in federal court in Tampa, trustee Stephen Meininger asked Judge K. Rodney May for permission to sell the "exclusive worldwide rights" of Anthony's life story.

Anthony, who is now 26, was acquitted of murder in 2011 in the death of her 2-year-old daughter, Caylee.

Anthony has never told her side of the story, despite intense media scrutiny of the case.

During a meeting with creditors in her bankruptcy case in Tampa on March 4, Anthony said she was unemployed and hasn't received any money to tell her story. She said that she is living with friends and that those friends—and strangers who send her gift cards and cash—help her survive.

But Meininger, through his attorney, said he thinks that her story has value and should be auctioned off to the highest bidder.

One man, Meininger wrote, has already offered to pay \$10,000 for Anthony's life story so he can prevent her from publishing or profiting from it in the future.

Meininger points out that the man's offer is not contingent on Anthony's cooperation or participation. Anthony's life story—including details about her child-



AP
In this Monday, March 4, 2013 file photo, Casey Anthony leaves the federal courthouse in Tampa, Fla., after a bankruptcy hearing.

hood and the disappearance and death of Caylee—is referred to as "the Property" in the motion.

"Due to the intense public interest in Debtor and the Property, the Trustee believes that there will be interest from others in purchasing the Property," the motion reads.

An auction, with bidding, is the "best way to maximize the value for the Estate and its creditors."

A call to David Schrader, Anthony's bankruptcy attorney, was not immediately returned.

One New York publisher said Monday that Anthony's story has the potential to be worth seven figures.

"If she had the goods, and

she was really going to spill the beans of what happened, particularly if she's not guilty, that's pretty big," said Eric Kampmann, the owner of Beaufort Books. "If she knew who the murderer was for example, that would be huge. That would be the biggest news story of the year."

Kampmann, who said he has been in contact with a member of Anthony's legal team but has no deal in place, is no stranger to controversial books. His publishing house reissued OJ Simpson's book, originally scheduled for release by ReganBooks, an imprint of HarperCollins. But "If I Did It" was dropped in response to widespread outrage.

ReganBooks founder Judith Regan was later fired and her imprint disbanded.

A federal bankruptcy judge then awarded rights to the book to the family of murder victim Ronald Goldman to help satisfy a \$38 million wrongful death judgment against Simpson.

Beaufort Books, based in New York, published "If I Did It" with Simpson's original manuscript intact and commentary included. The Goldman family called the book Simpson's confession—the same description Regan offered in justifying the original publication. The Beaufort edition has sold more than 100,000 copies.

Kampmann said enough time has passed since Anthony's trial that her story could be marketable.

Anthony filed for bankruptcy in Florida in late January, claiming about \$1,000 in assets and \$792,000 in liabilities. Court papers list Anthony as unemployed, with no recent income.

Her listed debts include \$500,000 for attorney fees and costs for Jose Baez, her criminal defense lawyer during the trial; \$145,660 for the Orange County Sheriff's office for investigative fees and costs; \$68,540 for the Internal Revenue Service for taxes, interest and penalties; and \$61,505 for the Florida Department of Law Enforcement for court costs.

Associate says Lil Wayne released from hospital

NEW YORK (AP)—Lil Wayne is out of the hospital, according to his Young Money associate Mack Maine.

Mack Maine told his Twitter followers on Monday night that the multiplatinum rapper had left Cedars-Sinai hospital in Los Angeles, where he had been hospitalized since last week.

Mack Maine tweeted his thanks to the hospital and said Lil Wayne had officially been released and was headed home. He added: "God is great."



AP
In this Feb. 1, 2013 file photo, recording artist Lil Wayne meets fans and celebrates his contemporary street wear apparel brand TRUKFIT at his hometown Macy's, in New Orleans.

Holmes tells Allure she hopes 2013 is 'peaceful'

NEW YORK (AP)—Katie Holmes doesn't talk about her split from actor Tom Cruise but she does say she hopes this year is better than the last.

The actress tells Allure magazine she wants 2013 to be "a peaceful year for a lot of people."

She goes on to cite some of 2012's major headlines like Hurricane Sandy and the Newtown, Conn., school shooting, adding she hopes "it's a good year for everyone."

The 34-year-old, who has a six-year-old daughter named Suri with Cruise, does say she's "open" to the idea of expanding her family in the future.

Katie Holmes filed for divorce from Tom Cruise last June after five years of marriage.



AP
This magazine cover image released by Allure shows actress Katie Holmes on the cover of the April 2013 issue.

Allure's April issue goes on sale nationwide March 26.

Pair accused of plotting to kill singer Joss Stone

LONDON (AP)—Prosecutors said Monday two men accused of plotting to rob and kill soul singer Joss Stone planned to decapitate her, then dump her body in a river.

The suspects, Junior Bradshaw and Kevin Liverpool, were arrested in June 2011, close to the singer's house after suspicious neighbors reported them to police. They never reached her house.

Opening the case at Exeter Crown Court, prosecutor Simon Morgan told a jury the pair, aged 32 and 35, set off from their home in Manchester with a samurai sword, knives, a hammer, black bags and gloves for Stone's house in Devon. The men were allegedly part of a gang that hatched the

plot, but other members could not be traced.

Morgan said that handwritten notes found in the suspects' car made reference to "decapitate," another read "Jocelyn RIP" and a further note said: "Once Jocelyn's dead ... find a river to dump her."

The motive for the plot was not clear, but Morgan said the men may have targeted Stone for her money or because they disliked her links with the royal family.

The notes indicated that the pair disapproved of Stone being invited to the Prince William and Kate Middleton's wedding in 2011, he said.

The defendants deny all charges. The trial continues.

Sexual abuse can occur even without actual physical assault

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: Is there such a thing as non-physical sexual abuse? When I was young, my father would fondle my mother when I came to sleep with them when I had a nightmare. (She would rebuff his advances.) He would also watch porn in front of me.

As I matured, he made comments about my figure. He would barge into my room without knocking and insist he didn't have to knock. He'd tell dirty jokes or talk about sexually inappropriate things. (The day after my wedding he asked my husband how our wedding night had been.) But with all of this, he never touched me or assaulted me.

His actions affected my self-esteem and relationships because as I grew up I thought the only thing I had to offer was being sexy. Thankfully, therapy and my husband helped me to see myself as a fully dynamic person.

I recently began seeing a new counselor who thinks my father was just a dirty old man—nothing more. Was I abused? Any information you have would be appreciated.

WONDERING IN WISCONSIN

DEAR WONDERING: When a parent attempts to initiate sex or watch pornography in front of a child, it is sexualizing behavior and it could also be considered "grooming" behavior. Your father's actions were so far out of the normal boundaries that they were off the charts. And yes, it WAS a form of abuse. My advice is to change counselors.

DEAR ABBY: My daughter is mentally ill, homeless and on meth. A year ago, when she wasn't so bad, she asked if I would take her 3-year-old daughter, "Lucy," so she could get herself together. Unfortunately, she went the other direction.

It was fine when I thought that the arrangement was temporary, but when I realized I would be raising Lucy as a single parent at 49, things got hard.

My so-called friends have abandoned me, and so has my much younger boyfriend. But what is actually killing this is that I get no respite. I am an extreme introvert. Constant contact drains me. When I don't have my "recharge" time, I tune Lucy out, and the next thing I know she has cut up the curtains or hidden my shoes. I'm afraid I'm just going to lose it. Work doesn't count; there are people there, too. Bad thoughts are going through my head because I feel such resentment.

I know if I had time for my own mental health, I could be a good surrogate mother to Lucy, but if I can't, I'm starting to think I may have to give her up, and that breaks my heart. I want to scream, to throw things, to just leave the house and walk until I drop. Please help me.

END OF MY ROPE

DEAR END: How much time do you need to recharge? Would it be an hour or hour and a half at the end of each workday? Would an afternoon during the weekends suffice? Have you discussed this with Lucy's grandfather or her paternal grandparents? They might be willing to get involved and lighten your load. Would a neighbor watch your grandchild on a regular basis if you compensated her or him? How about the person who already takes care of Lucy while you're at work?

Please explore these options if you haven't already. Screaming, throwing things and leaving the little girl alone are not viable scenarios. However, if you feel that you might harm her, it would be better if you placed her for adoption or in foster care.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write *Dear Abby* at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: *Dear Abby—Letter Booklet*, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.



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By Bryan Basset

The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13			14			
15				16			17			
18					19	20				
				21			22		23	24
25	26	27		28		29	30	31	32	
33				34			35			
36				37			38			
				39			40			
43	44			45		46	47	48	49	
50				51	52	53				
54				55			56			
57				58			59			

Difficulty Level ★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

9	1	5	7	3	8	4	6	2
8	4	2	9	5	6	7	3	1
7	3	6	2	1	4	9	5	8
2	5	3	1	8	7	6	4	9
4	8	9	5	6	3	1	2	7
6	7	1	4	2	9	3	8	5
1	2	7	3	4	5	8	9	6
3	9	8	6	7	2	5	1	4
5	6	4	8	9	1	2	7	3

Difficulty Level ★★

3/20

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

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N	C	N	F	S	E	C	I	O	H	C</td				

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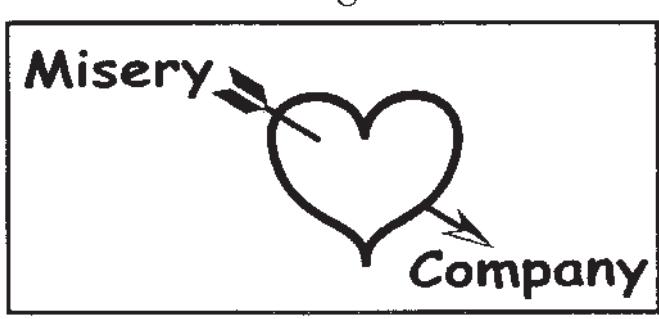
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Heat beat Celtics for 23rd win in a row



BOSTON (AP)—The longest winning streak in NBA history is still 10 victories away for the Miami Heat. So it will be a while before Dwyane Wade really focuses on matching the 33-game run of the Los Angeles Lakers.

“Not ‘til we get to 32,” he said with a smile after one of the greatest challenges to Miami’s run of success.

LeBron James hit the go-ahead jumper with 10.5 seconds remaining to cap a 37-point performance and the Heat escaped with a 105-103 win over the Boston Celtics on Monday night for their 23rd straight win, breaking a tie for second with the 2007-08 Houston Rockets.

Just as Wade isn’t looking too far ahead, coach Erik Spoelstra didn’t have time to consider that the Heat would lose the game – even when the Celtics led by 17 early in the second quarter and by 13 with 8:27 to play.

“I didn’t think like that,” he said. “We have to stay in the moment.”

There was no panic on a team that was playing its third game in four days and had lost its previous 10 regular-season games in Boston. Not even against a Celtics team that had won 11 consecutive home games, starting with a 100-98, double-overtime victory over the Heat on Jan. 27. Miami split its next two games, losing on Feb. 1 at Indiana. Two days later, the winning streak began in Toronto.

Miami’s next four opponents—Cleveland, Detroit, Charlotte and Orlando—have the four worst records in the East. The Heat need 11 more wins to surpass the mark the Lakers set in 1971-72, and eight of their next 11 games are against teams with losing records. The biggest threat is San Antonio, which could be the 30th straight victim.

Spoelstra appreciated what the streak means.

“It’s a special opportunity that we have with this group and you don’t want to take it for granted,” he said. “You want to treat every day as a special opportunity to be with this group, to share these moments together, but more importantly to take a step closer to going after our goal and every day that we improve puts us in a better position in a quest where nothing is guaranteed for anybody.”

Nothing was guaranteed for the Celtics on Monday night, despite a career-high 43 points by Jeff Green. He got more offensive opportunities because Kevin Garnett missed the game with the flu and a left thigh strain.

But after James converted an offensive rebound to tie the game at 103, Green missed a layup with 1:07 left. Then, after James made the decisive basket, Shane Battier blocked Green’s layup with 7.2 seconds to go.

The ball went out of bounds



AP
Miami Heat’s Mario Chalmers (15), Udonis Haslem (40) and LeBron James (6) walk upcourt after a timeout in the first quarter of an NBA basketball game against the Boston Celtics in Boston, Monday, March 18, 2013.

but Paul Pierce, who had 17 points, eight rebounds and eight assists, missed a 3-pointer with 3.4 seconds remaining. Wade, who had 16 points, got the rebound and called timeout with 1.9 seconds left. Courtney Lee committed a non-shooting foul on James with 1.1 seconds to play. Battier then threw the inbounds pass off a Celtic and time expired.

“We had to earn that one, no question about it,” Spoelstra said. “They really got into us defensively and made it tough for us to get into our offense. They were just coming at us so fast.”

But five years to the day after the Celtics snapped Houston’s 22-game streak, the Heat extended theirs to 23.

“It means a lot,” James said. “I know the history of the game. To be sitting in second place right now ... for us to be there and doing it the way we want to do it, it means a lot.”

James added 12 assists and Mario Chalmers scored 21 for Miami.

“I believed we were going to win the game before the game. I thought we were going to win the game during the game. And I thought we should have won the game,” Celtics coach Doc Rivers said. “I give them credit. They made some spectacular plays.”

The Heat had not won in Boston since the New Big Three was formed—including that double-overtime loss on Jan. 27, when former Celtic Ray Allen returned with his new team.

That was the day Rajon Rondo was diagnosed with an ACL tear that ended his season. This time, it was Garnett who sat out, though Rivers said he would have played if the thigh injury had not been compounded by the flu.

“It was the best team in the league and we took them to the breaking point,” Green said. “We’ve just got to, when Kevin comes back, continue to play like we did today.”

Green had 14 points in the first quarter, when the Celtics scored the last 17 to open a 31-19 lead. Boston led by as many

as 17 in the second, but Miami went on a 15-6 run just before the half to make it a six-point game and then scored the first eight points in the third quarter to take the lead.

Green had 12 in the second quarter and 12 in the third.

But the Heat still pushed their winning streak to 23.

“No moral victories,” Pierce said, “even though it was a close game.”

76ers 101, Trail Blazers 100

In Philadelphia, Spencer Hawes had 18 points and 13 rebounds as Philadelphia held off Portland.

The Sixers wasted a 14-point lead and Portland took the lead late in the fourth. Holiday, though, rallied the Sixers and stretched the lead to 101-97 on a pair of free throws.

Damian Lillard hit a 3-pointer to cut it to 101-100. Holiday fell on the inbound pass and the ball sailed into the Sixers’ bench, giving Portland the ball with 7.1 seconds left. LaMarcus Aldridge missed the potential winner on a turnaround over Hawes.

Aldridge had 32 points and 14 rebounds, and Lillard scored 27 points.

Nuggets 119, Bulls 118, OT

In Chicago, Andre Iguodala’s 3-pointer with 7.1 seconds left in overtime sent Denver to its 12th consecutive win.

Wilson Chandler led the Nuggets with 35 points, Corey Brewer added 16 and Ty Lawson 13.

Iguodala finished with 12 points and 10 rebounds, and Andre Miller had 13 assists.

Nate Robinson scored 34 points for Chicago, which lost for the seventh time in 11 games. Luol Deng added 21 points, Marco Belinelli scored 18, and Joakim Noah had 12 rebounds and 14 points.

It was the 12th time in the last 13 games that Denver scored at least 100 points, and marked the first time in seven games that an opponent has scored at least 100

on the Nuggets.

Suns 99, Lakers 76

In Phoenix, Luis Scola scored all 14 of his points in the fourth quarter as Phoenix pulled away to beat Los Angeles, which was without Kobe Bryant for the second straight night.

Steve Nash scored 19 against his former team, but was just 6 of 17 as the Lakers shot 33 percent for the game.

The Suns outscored the Lakers 28-10 in the fourth quarter to snap a four-game losing streak.

Dwight Howard had 16 points and 11 rebounds, but was just 6 of 18 from the field for the Lakers, still without injured Pau Gasol.

Wesley Johnson added 14 points for the Suns, who beat the Lakers in Phoenix for the fourth time in a row.

Knicks 90, Jazz 83

In Salt Lake City, J.R. Smith scored 20 points and Raymond Felton had 19 as short-handed New York defeated Utah to end a four-game losing streak.

The Knicks (39-26) dropped games at Golden State, Denver, Portland and the Los Angeles Clippers by an average margin of 20 points, but salvaged the last game of their trip and stayed a game ahead of the Nets in the Atlantic Division.

New York was without leading scorer Carmelo Anthony, who practiced earlier Monday and indicated his right knee feels better since he had fluid drained. New York also remained without center Tyson Chandler, bothered by a strained neck muscle, and forward Amar'e Stoudemire, who recently underwent knee surgery.

Gordon Hayward led Utah with 17 points, Paul Millsap had 12 and Al Jefferson 10, but the Jazz shot 38 percent.

Bobcats 119, Wizards 114

In Charlotte, North Carolina, Gerald Henderson had 27 points, Kemba Walker came up big late and Charlotte snapped Washington’s three-game win streak.

to plague the Cavaliers. Guard Dion Waiters didn’t play after the first quarter because of a sore left knee and Cleveland played its fourth straight game without All-Star guard Kyrie Irving, who is out with a sprained left shoulder.

Nets 119, Pistons 82

In Auburn Hills, Michigan, Deron Williams scored 31 points in 28 minutes, and Brooklyn easily won the opener of an eight-game road trip.

Detroit lost its ninth straight and fell to 2-13 since the All-Star break. Pistons coach Lawrence Frank returned after missing six games to be with his seriously ill wife. Frank is planning to return to New Jersey before Detroit plays Friday in Miami.

The Nets, coming off a 12-point loss to Atlanta on Sunday, pulled within a half-game of New York in the Atlantic Division, with the Knicks playing later Monday at Utah.

Brook Lopez added 18 points and seven rebounds, while former Pistons guard Jerry Stackhouse had 10 points in his first game since Jan. 26.

Warriors 93, Hornets 72

In New Orleans, Stephen Curry scored 30 points as Golden State won easily for the second straight night.

Curry, who scored 29 points in a 30-point victory at Houston on Sunday, made 10 of his 19 field goal attempts, going 6 of 9 on 3-pointers, hitting one from as far as 29 feet.

David Lee added 20 points and 11 rebounds, and Klay Thompson scored 13 points for the Warriors.

Ryan Anderson had 21 points and nine rebounds for the Hornets, who came in tied for the Western Conference’s worst record and have lost four straight. Anthony Davis added 16 points and Greivis Vasquez 14.

Grizzlies 92, Timberwolves 77

In Memphis, Tennessee, Mike Conley had 20 points and six assists to help Memphis win for the first time in three games.

Conley was 8 of 14 from the field and connected on 3 of 6 from beyond the arc to help Memphis get its 10th straight win in the series. Marc Gasol finished with 16 points and Jerryd Bayless added 15. Zach Randolph had 14 points and 10 rebounds, while Tayshaun Prince scored 12 points and grabbed a season-high 14 rebounds.

Alexey Shved led the Timberwolves with 12 points, and Mickael Gelabale and J.J. Barea finished with 11 apiece. The Timberwolves’ reserves scored 44 points as no Minnesota starter finished in double figures.

Minnesota shot 34 percent and was outscored 50-28 in the paint.

Dominicans beat Netherlands, reach WBC final

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—After two World Baseball Classics dominated by Japan, this one is coming down to a pair of proud Caribbean nations.

When the undefeated Dominican Republic plays Puerto Rico on Tuesday night in a rematch only three days after they last met in Miami, two island countries with years of baseball success will give the world another version of a Caribbean championship.

“Whoever wins the Classic is really the Caribbeans,” Dominican manager Tony Pena said after his team’s 4-1 win against the Netherlands on Monday. “It could be Puerto Rico or the Dominican Republic, but it will belong to the Caribbeans.”

Tuesday’s winner will earn the distinction of world champion for the first time in the three-event history of the WBC.

Fernando Rodney surprised his teammates in the middle of the game when he pulled out a lucky plantain, sent from a family member back home in the Dominican just in time for Monday’s semifinal.

The quirky Tampa Bay closer sure found the perfect motivational prop.

Late lineup addition Moises Sierra hit a tying RBI double in the fifth and Jose Reyes added a go-ahead single two batters later as the spirited Dominicans reached the WBC final and avenged an early exit at the hands of the Dutch in the last Classic four years ago.

The banana will be around for another day.

“Keep it, why not?” winning pitcher Edinson Volquez said. “It’s like we have this one mission as a team, winning and winning.”

Edwin Encarnacion had an RBI single as the undefeated Dominicans survived a rocky start from Volquez, who benefited from Sierra’s catch over the left-field wall in foul territory to end a first-inning threat.

The Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico will play for a third time this tournament after the Dominicans (7-0) won Saturday in Miami before each club flew West.

One will get to throw quite a party.

Puerto Rico eliminated two-time defending Classic champion Japan 3-1 on Sunday night. Rodney finished Monday’s game for his sixth save as dozens of seagulls swirled right above the field.

“The platano said, ‘If you keep me close to you, you’re going to get the win,’ ” Rodney joked after briefly putting it on display during pregame introductions.

Players rushed out of the dugout as fans chanted “Dominicana! Dominicana!”

This time, the Dominicans didn’t let the Netherlands interfere with their road to the WBC championship.

They were still fuming four



After two World Baseball Classics dominated by Japan, this one is coming down to a pair of proud Caribbean nations.



AP

The Dominican Republic’s Fernando Rodney (56) celebrates after the last out during the ninth inning of a semifinal game of the World Baseball Classic against the Netherlands in San Francisco, Monday, March 18, 2013.

years after the Netherlands beat them twice in the 2009 WBC’s first round for a stunning early exit. They were a pair of one-run games played in San Juan, Puerto Rico, including an 11-inning victory in an elimination contest.

“We kept it in the past,” Volquez said. “We’re just focused on our game.”

And Pena certainly didn’t mind Rodney’s spontaneous dugout contribution.

“In a game like this, you have to have a little bit of fun and find a way to loosen up,” the skipper said. “I’m glad he did it.”

Former Oakland and San Francisco shortstop Miguel Tejada earned a start at third base and singled twice and scored a run. He drew cheers from the Bay Area fans during pregame introductions.

Andruw Jones hit a two-out

single in the fourth for the first Dutch hit against Volquez, who yielded Wladimir Balentien’s first-inning RBI groundout before settling in to earn the win.

Carlos Santana hit a one-out double in the fifth and Sierra followed with an RBI double as the Dominicans tied the game at 1 and later chased Netherlands starter Diegomar Markwell.

The Dutch lefty, who came in at a 2-0 with a 0.90 ERA in his two previous WBC outings, didn’t allow a runner past first base through four innings. But his pitch count quickly went up in a four-run fifth as the Dominicans tagged him for five hits, so that was it considering the WBC pitch limit is 95.

Tom Stuifbergen replaced Markwell with two outs in the fifth and threw a wild pitch on his first offering to Robinson

Cano, allowing Reyes to score from third for an insurance run.

Cano—batting 15 for 29 (.517) this tournament with two home runs, six RBIs, five runs scored and two doubles—went 1 for 2 with two intentional walks.

The second baseman and Yankees star made a pretty stop on Roger Bernadina’s sharp grounder in the sixth in which he lunged left then spun and threw to first.

Now, Netherlands manager Hensley Meulens will head back to the Arizona desert for his other gig: hitting coach of the defending World Series champion San Francisco Giants. The Dutch-born Meulens’ mother is Dominican, so he had fans on both sides for this one.

About half of the Dutch roster is from Holland and the others from his native island of Cura-

cao. He warned his team that the Dominicans had all the big names and the major league experience, but not to let it affect the Dutch doing what got them this far: playing solid, fundamental baseball.

“I’m proud of our guys,” Meulens said. “I thanked them for playing with a lot of heart.”

This game drew only 27,527, compared to 33,363 a night earlier as Japan went down to the surprising Puerto Ricans.

While hardly as festive without the favored Japanese, some sections of fans stayed on their feet and danced to music and the beat of drums and horns. One man cheered “Let’s go Giants!” in the top of the fourth inning.

Volquez, the Dominican right-hander, had a pair of walks and a wild pitch—with two mound visits by Santana, the

catcher – through the first two batters of the game.

He threw nine balls among his first 11 pitches, but got out of it with minimal damage after allowing Balentien’s run-scoring grounder. And the Dominican Republic’s reliable bullpen did the rest.

Pena made a lineup switch after consulting with his coaches, going with Sierra in left field and in the No. 8 hole instead of the slumping Ricardo Nanita.

On a night countryman Felipe Alou threw out the ceremonial first pitch to get things started, the Dominicans got it done for their baseball-crazed homeland.

“Of course when you’re representing your country and you’re making your country proud, that’s amazing. That’s awesome,” Volquez said. “It’s not something that you can do every day.”

Lindsey Vonn and Tiger Woods say they’re dating

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Sports has a new power couple: Tiger Woods and Lindsey Vonn confirmed they’re dating.

Two months after rumors began circulating in Europe, Woods and Vonn posted separate items on their Facebook pages Monday afternoon to announce their relationship. The posts include photos of golf’s 14-time major winner and the Olympic and World Cup downhill ski champion.

“This season has been great so far and I’m happy with my wins at Torrey and Doral,” Woods said. “Something nice that’s happened off the course was meeting Lindsey Vonn. Lindsey and I have been friends for some time, but over the last few months we have become very happy.”

Woods made a stop in Austria—where Vonn was competing in the Alpine skiing world championships—in January on his way to Abu Dhabi to start his season. Two weeks ago, after he won the Cadillac Championship at Doral for his second win this year, *The Daily Mail* published photos that showed a woman, who appeared to be Vonn, in a golf cart at the marina where Woods’ yacht “Privacy” was docked.

“I guess it wasn’t a well-kept secret but yes, I am dating Tiger Woods,” Vonn said on her Facebook page. “Our relationship evolved from a friendship into something more over these past few months and it has made me very happy.”

Both said they wanted to keep

everything else private.

Woods posted four photos with Vonn on his page, while Vonn’s had one of those photos.

Vonn is recovering from right knee surgery—something familiar to Woods—after a Feb. 5 crash that ended her season. Her divorce from Thomas Vonn after more than four years became official in January. They separated in 2011. Vonn, whose maiden name is Kildow, decided to keep Vonn as her last name after the divorce.

The announcement was one day after the World Cup season ended. Vonn hopes to return in time for the Olympics next year in Sochi.

Woods’ past relationships are far more sensational.

His marriage of five years to Elin Nordegren of Sweden col-

lapsed in 2010 after shocking

revelations of multiple extramarital affairs. His infidelity was exposed the night after Thanksgiving in 2009 when he ran his car into a tree and a fire hydrant outside his Florida home.

Woods spent the summer of 2010 working out details of a divorce, which became official in August that year. They share custody of their two children.

The 37-year-old Woods rarely discusses any aspect of his private life, and it was surprising that he acknowledged a relationship with Vonn, much less post studio photos of him, in a short-sleeve Nike golf shirt, and Vonn, in a light blue warm-up jacket. But this would preclude paparazzi making big money when they are photographed to

gether for the first time.

He is playing the Arnold Palmer Invitational this week at Bay Hill, where he is a seven-time winner and the defending champion. Woods can return to No. 1 in the world for the first time since October 2010 if he wins.

After that, Woods is not expected to play until the Masters on April 11-14.

The 28-year-old Vonn is the premier ski racer of her generation, an owner of four World Cup overall titles, along with gold and bronze medals from the 2010 Vancouver Olympics that earned her AP Female Athlete of the Year honors. She is the only skier—male or female—to win one of the annual AP awards that date back to 1931.

Villagomez wins XGA February Ace

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Ray Villagomez topped 13 other participants in the X-clusive Golfers Association's February Ace of the Month tournament held early this month at the Kingfisher

Golf Links.

Villagomez shot a 47 on the front nine and finished the back side with a 43 for an even gross of 90 that was trimmed down to a field low net of 72.

Mike "Palaksi" Sablan walked away with runner-up honors, shooting a 46 on the first nine holes, followed by a

solid 39 on the back nine for a gross of 85 and net 73.

Park Young settled for third place via handicap tiebreaker rule with a 45 on the front and a 46 on the back. His 91 raw score was factored into a 73 net.

Park also won closest to the pin award on hole No. 8. Other closest to the pin winners were

Martin Naputi on No. 6, Luis Cepeda on No. 12, and Peter Tenorio on No. 15.

Meanwhile, XGA's March Ace of the Month event is scheduled for March 30 at the Marianas Country Club. Show time is set for noon leading into a 1pm tee off.

XGA is made up of about

Last call to sign up for Docomo spring caging

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Today is the last day to sign up for the Docomo Pacific Spring Break Basketball Tournament, which will kick off this Saturday and run until April 6 at the Gillette Multi-purpose Gymnasium.

The tournament will have two divisions, the U17 and U30.

A Pacific Islands Club gift certificate, valued at \$250, will be awarded to the U17 winner, while \$200 cash prize will go to the U30 champion. Trophies

will also be handed out to the winning teams.

Moreover, there is a mandatory 6pm meeting for all interested teams, new entrants included, tonight at Garapan court.

So far, there are five U17 teams that have already signed up and only three slots are available. There are also four U30 squads registered with two remaining slots still open.

The competition is five-on-five full court game and will have a round robin format in the elimination with 15-minute halves, while the finals is extended to 20-minute halves.

The tournament will follow standard Federation De Basketball (FIBA) rules with some additional ground rules, such as teams in possession of the ball are allowed to call a timeout on the court.

The U17 division will open the competition with games running from 8am to 8pm. Sunday will follow the same schedule, while U17 games on Monday and Tuesday are set to take place from 4pm to 9pm. Wednesday's playoffs are from 3pm to 5pm, and Thursday's championship is scheduled to tip off at 5:30pm.

The U30 tournament opens

after the U17 division or on April 1, from 5pm to 8pm. U30 matches will also take place from 5pm to 8pm on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, while Saturday's playoffs will run from 8:30am to 10:30am, followed by the finals at 2pm.

Entrance fee is set at \$150 per team and rosters are limited to 12 players per squad.

Event sponsors include Docomo Pacific, PIC, the Unified Basketball Association, the Tan Siu Lin Foundation, and the Rollers Basketball Club.

For more information, contact event coordinator James Lee at 483-0290 or email unifiedbasketballassociation@gmail.com.

the men's division were Joshua Berger (3:08:07), Derek Chambers (3:13:19), and Jim Arenovski (4:12:57), while Mamiko Oshima-Berger was the lone entry in the women's

field and had similar final time with her husband. Mamiko could have finished earlier after posting 24:29 and 1:36:17 in the swim and bike legs, but decided to run alongside Joshua and the couple made it to AMP with their hands up together. Mamiko still managed to place fifth overall in the run leg with her 1:07:12.

Sean Smith owned the best time in the run leg at 51:14, but settled for third place overall with his 26:41 in the swim and 1:25:52 in the bike parts, respectively.

Florence Antonio came in at fourth with his 2:41:26 and split times of 24:50, 1:17:00, and 59:36, while Kabiriel (2:54:41) dropped to fifth, as he failed to sustain his momentum in the last two legs after going out of the water first. Kabiriel was fourth in the bike leg (1:25:52) and sixth in the run (1:10:46).

The three other finishers in

the men's division were Joshua Berger (3:08:07), Derek Chambers (3:13:19), and Jim Arenovski (4:12:57), while Mamiko Oshima-Berger was the lone entry in the women's field and had similar final time with her husband. Mamiko could have finished earlier after posting 24:29 and 1:36:17 in the swim and bike legs, but decided to run alongside Joshua and the couple made it to AMP with their hands up together. Mamiko still managed to place fifth overall in the run leg with her 1:07:12.

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Meanwhile, after joining the Tagaman relay and coming out of the water fourth overall behind three male pros, Angel Marie Tan had her taste of the entire triathlon and completed the longest race in Taga Kids at 1:00:37. She had split times of 7:46.15, 28:54.37, and 23:57.

Conatsu Kaga duplicated her younger sister's first place finish after topping the girls 9 to 12 age group with a time of

43:55.82. Conatsu, who had 6:47.01 and 20:15.92 in the swim and bike legs, finished about four minutes ahead of Jin Ju Thompson after a blistering run where she timed in at 16:52.89. Thompson clocked in at 47:43.61 after having split times of 6:39.78, 21:24.51, and 19:39.32. Sami Nimura completed the field with a combined timed of 55:07.99 (9:28.31, 27:05.32, and 19:34.36).

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Bike Leg of Tagaman Triathlon

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Bikers negotiate the uphill road in front of the former Nikko Hotel in San Roque during last Saturday's 24th Tagaman Triathlon.



Mieko Carey, far right, smiles as she and three other bikers are cheered on by volunteers.



A Japanese biker relaxes after an uphill ride in San Roque.



Ben Allen is heading down the course, while three bikers make their way up to the Bird Island Lookout.



Volunteers cheer on Butch Sublemente as he makes his turn at the Mariana Resort.



Two bikers leisurely cruise along Marpi.



Renata Bucher slows down after entering the bike-run transition area.



Three bikers head to the Suicide Cliff.



Tyce Mister removes his clip as he heads to the bike-run transition area.

Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel is all eyes on the road during the early portion of the 40K bike.



Tenorio leads Sport finishers



Taga Kids participants pose for a group photo with Tagaman Triathlon champions Ben Allen, back row right, Jacqui Slack, and Taga, Inc.'s Brad Ruszala during the awards ceremony last Saturday night at the Pacific Islands Club.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Twenty-eight completed the 2013 Taga Kids held around the American Memorial Park last Saturday.

Leading the finishers was Rintaro Miyawaki, who posted

28 complete Taga Kids

the fastest time in the boys 6 to 8 age group with his 20:45.32. Miyawaki timed in at 2:41.17 (fastest) in the swim leg (around 100m) in the waters off Micro Beach and submitted 10:39.80

and 7:24.35 (fastest) in the bike and run races (around the AMP park), respectively, to beat Akira Kadokura (21:35.26) and Taiyo Akimaru (23:04.50). Kadokura held the second

best time in the swim leg with his 2:47.81 and topped the bike race with his 10:34.71, but fell short of catching up Miyawaki after recording 8:12.84 in the run leg. Akimaru, on the other hand, had split times of 2:40.87, 11:15.13, and 8:58.70.

See TAGA KIDS on Page 26

Wild Bill's on top of M-League

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Will Bill's clinched the early lead in Division 1 of M-League after shutting out Paire Football Club, 5-0, last Sunday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Adul Detdon scored twin goals to lift Wild Bill's to a 2-0-0 win-draw-loss record, while Robert Jordan, Don Cabrera, and James McAllister added one each. Wild Bill's opened the spring season with a 7-4 win over Korean Football Association on Saipan.

In their second match, Wild Bill's striker Adul dropped his first goal in the 14th minute, while Jordan lit up the scoreboard in the 27th. Then eight minutes later, Cabrera was



A Korean Football Association on Saipan player, left, battles two Tan Holdings FC strikers during their Division 1 game in the M-League last Sunday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

credited the goal, while Paire (1-0-1) continued to struggle in the remainder of the first half. In the second half, Adul also opened Wild Bill's of-

fense with his second goal in the 65th, while McAllister got one eight minutes before the match ended.

See WILD BILL'S on Page 26

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

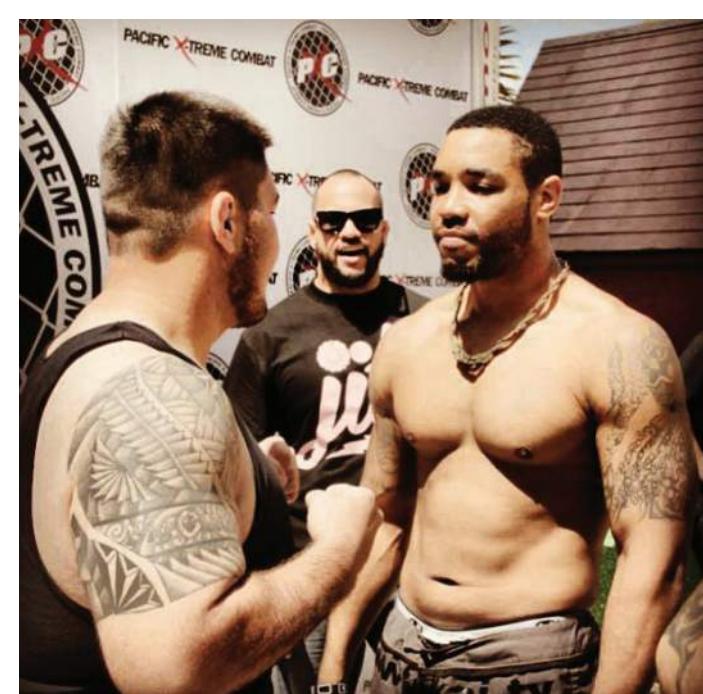
Trench Tech Purebred's Mylo "Bam-Bam" Lassiter lost his Pacific Xtreme Combat debut, bowing to Roque Martinez of Spike 22 in their heavyweight bout in the PXC 36 held last Friday at the University of Guam Field House.

Lassiter (4-2 win-loss record) survived all three five-minute rounds, but could not sway the judges as Martinez (6-4-1) was awarded a unanimous win in front of his home crowd.

Base on eyewitness accounts, Lassiter started off the fight very strong and likely won the opening round. However the second round was very close and could have gone either way, while the

See LASSITER on Page 26

Lassiter falls short in PXC debut



Mylo "Bam-Bam" Lassiter, right, at the PXC 36 weigh-in held at the Pacific Islands Club on March 6 in Hagatna, Guam.

The inaugural Tagaman Sport last Saturday was a battle among Saipan triathletes with veteran Lewie Tenorio ruling the field.



Tenorio timed in at 2:34:01 in the 1-kilometer swim, 40K bike, and 10K run to prevail against eight other participants. He completed the one-lap swim leg in the waters off Pacific Islands Club in 23:46, the second fastest behind Ketson "Jack"

See TENORIO on Page 26